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SULLIVAN ON MANIA TO BAN EVERYTHING, PG16

Entertainment

Beamed up to GG post? pg 27

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COUVER • WEEKEND, APRIL 23-25, 2010

Sports pg 18

Time for Canucks' 'A' game

Ferries set to pamper with spa services

ACTIVE PASS Passengers on B.C. Ferries "Spirit" class vessels can soon grab a massage or get their nails buffed as they steam through Active Pass.

The C Spa will begin service in mid-May, four sailings a day on the Spirit of British Columbia and the Spirit of Vancouver Island between Tsawwassen and Swartz Bay.

Costs range from $20 for a 15-minute massage to $65 for a manicure and pedicure combination.

"We constantly try to provide innovative services on board our ships to appeal to a broad range of customers," said Geoff Dickson, B.C. Ferries vice-president of catering and retail, in a release.

The spa services will be provided in the staterooms on Deck 6.

METRO VANCOUVER

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WHAT'S THIS BARCODE FOR?
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Celebrity Buzz pg 32

Tiger, Elin leading separate lives?

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Running to new lives

Marathoner's running club for the homeless starts this week downtown

LAURA FORTEY
for Metro Vancouver

A Vancouver marathon runner wants to help the city's homeless improve their health and self esteem one step at a time — literally.

Benji Chu has founded a running club for the homeless that starts this Wednesday at 3 p.m. at First Baptist Church on Burrard Street. It'll meet Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings.

It's inspired by Back On My Feet, a similar club, founded by Anne Mahlum in Philadelphia. Today, it has 200 active participants in three U.S. cities and more than 800 alumni since 2007.

"I saw Anne running with the homeless people ... they have totally transformed their life in a positive way," said Chu.

Out running one day, Chu bumped into a homeless man who wanted to run with him, but wouldn't leave his shopping cart.

"So I pushed his cart. He was running alongside me ... and he said laughing 'this is exactly what I'm looking for and I'm so happy.'"

He's been jogging his mind, thinking of ways to start the running club since.

"They need more than people feeding them to make a difference in their lives," said Chu.

The idea is to help give members a sense of community and something to look forward to in the mornings.

"Every human being has something to get addicted to. We (will) use running to help them turn their lives around."

Chris Wink of Back On My Feet said they have no shortage of success stories.

"(The homeless people) get that running fills a void. You set a goal and you have to build up to it," Wink said in a phone interview from Philadelphia Thursday.

The overwhelming success of the U.S. organization has it expanding to a fourth city in May with plans to expand to five more North American cities in 2011.

Chu said he's hoping to get new runners started by walking, then building up their stamina from there.

"My goal is four months ... for them to run a race by the end of the summer."

Ex-homeless person Haydn Coote said he's planning to join the running club. Without physical activity to motivate him, he said he's not sure where he would be today.

"Running is fantastic … to me it's the endorphin rush," said Coote.

He added that he sees exercise as an investment in his body and mind.

"When I feel good, I can get things done."

LAURA FORTEY/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Haydn Coote, a former homeless person, stretches in downtown Vancouver yesterday. He's joining a running club for the homeless that starts this week.

RCMP issues warning after faker poses as Chilliwack Mountie

SAFETY RISK If you've been pulled over recently in Chilliwack, it may have been a good idea to have asked the cop for ID.

A 19-year-old man is facing charges after a man impersonated an officer and pulled over a Chilliwack woman on Tuesday night, the RCMP said.

Cpl. Lea-Anne Dunlop, said the impersonator's car was equipped with a siren and flashing lights.

The fake cop asked the woman where she was headed to and if she had been drinking. The man was dressed in plain clothes and had no police equipment on him, which made the woman suspicious. She later phoned police who confirmed the man wasn't a Mountie.

Dunlop said the RCMP doesn't believe the man had any malicious intent but wouldn't speculate on whether it was a prank. She believes there may be another man involved and said that this has happened before.

"Whenever somebody puts themselves in a position of authority, it is a public safety risk," said Dunlop. Investigators are asking people to call police if they suspect they have been pulled over by a fake cop.

WESTON STEELE/
FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Vancouver Newspapers 1190 Homer Street, Suite 250, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 2X6. Publisher: Maryse Lalonde

Local

NDP seeks pesticide ban

New Democrat environment critic Rob Fleming plans to reintroduce legislation which would take cosmetic pesticides off store shelves and prevent their use in schoolyards and playgrounds in B.C. Almost 30 municipalities in the province have banned pesticide use. METRO VANCOUVER

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B.C.'s wealthy burn through the largest share of gas: Study

FUEL The filthy rich are living up to their name in B.C. Top income earners — the richest 20 per cent — use almost double the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of those in the lowest income group, according to a study by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

With higher earners having larger homes, more cars and vacation properties, CCPA-B.C. senior economist Marc Lee said those families have more GHG-intensive consumption patterns. Lee said in order to make climate policies effective, "they need to be fair."

"High-income British Columbians should bear the greater burden of reducing greenhouse gas emissions." LAURA FORTEY/ METRO VANCOUVER

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY
Blogs All Backbeat wants from 'Idol Gives Back' are the hours wasted watching it, and SpinDoctor marvels at Guergis scandal's body count
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Ex-cop's trafficking case held

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

An ex-Vancouver police officer appeared in court Thursday one day after he was fired from the VPD and arrested at police headquarters for allegations he trafficked marijuana while on duty.

Peter Hodson appeared before a justice of the peace at Provincial Court in Vancouver yesterday. The slender 31-year-old has short-cut brown hair and was wearing a light-blue patterned T-shirt.

He rested his forearms on the railing of the prisoner's box while his lawyer Vincent Michaels requested that the matter be put over until Monday.

Hodson, who quietly thanked the justice as he was led away, will be held at the Surrey Pre-Trial Centre through the weekend. His next appearance will be to set a date for his upcoming bail hearing.

Outside the courthouse, Michaels cautioned a knot of reporters that "allegations are not evidence" and hoped that the public would wait to make up their mind in the case.

He would not comment on how his client was doing.

A former University of B.C. basketball player, Hodson founded Under The Reading Tree, a charity that aided literacy efforts in Africa

On Thursday, however, Hodson's photo and profile had been removed from the charity's website.

SUBMITTED PHOTO
Peter Hodson

Stranded B.C. musician's 'Volcano Song' taking off

KRISTA SYLVESTER
for Metro Canada

MUSIC A B.C. musician stuck in an airport has written a song that's growing in popularity on YouTube about the erupting Iceland volcano.

Andrew Allen and his wife were stranded for two days at Calgary International Airport while waiting for the skies to clear of ash from the volcano Eyjafjallajokull.

The Vernon couple were en route to Manchester, U.K., Tuesday when Allen decided to go with the lava flow and penned a tune called Volcano Song.

"I was just playing around with my guitar and was making stuff up and my wife thought it was funny and started laughing and we thought we should tape it and put it up," Allen said. He dedicated the song to the people who bought tickets to the 12 shows he had lined up in England.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/FOR METRO CANADA
Vernon musician Andrew Allen at Calgary International Airport where he had plenty of time to write a song about the erupting volcano in Iceland. He was on his way to England for a 12-gig tour.

"I figured they would find it humorous and it's my way of saying sorry. We're just trying to make the best of it because it's a natural disaster. It's a volcano. What can you do?"

His wife, Julie, isn't the only one who thinks the song is hilarious. By yesterday it received nearly 2,000 hits online.

"I think it just shows what kind of guy Andrew is," she said.

Woman handed 7½ years for defrauding care home, seniors

TRIAL A 62-year-old B.C. woman who cheated seniors and a care home out of more than $800,000 has been sentenced to 7½ years in jail.

In handing down the term on Judith Slobbe, a Provincial Court judge said her duplicity was virtually pathological.

Slobbe worked in the accounting department of Richmond's Fraserview Care Lodge and defrauded the family business of more than $700,000.

She later moved to Port Alberni on Vancouver Island, where she befriended elderly people and persuaded them to lend her thousands of dollars that she never repaid. She pleaded guilty last October to stealing money from the Fraserview Care Home, and in March admitted to a dozen charges involving seniors in Port Alberni.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

HST Federal NDP Leader Jack Layton, speaking in Vancouver on Thursday, said he wants the Harper government to put off implementation of the harmonized sales tax in British Columbia until a proposed provincial referendum on cancelling it has been held.

FIRE A fire severely damaged a house near Main Street and 33rd Avenue in Vancouver on Thursday. No one was hurt.

CRASH An RCMP officer is recovering in hospital with minor injuries after his motorcycle was hit by a pickup truck in Surrey early Thursday morning. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Playland coaster a star-magnet

Playland's iconic wooden roller-coaster has whisked its fair share of celebrities around its track, including Mel Gibson, Johnny Depp, Mark Wahlberg, Bryan Adams and Reese Witherspoon. The coaster celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2008. METRO VANCOUVER

Playland marking 100 years

Park's roots established with Skid Road fair in city's wilderness

When Playland at the PNE opens its doors on Saturday, it not only marks the symbolic start of summer in Vancouver, but the historic amusement park's 100th birthday.

"There's not many things in Vancouver that have the honour of saying they're 100 years old," said Laura Ballance, a spokesperson for Playland, adding that centennial celebrations will take place at the PNE fair in August.

Ballance said Playland as we know it started in 1958 when the wooden roller-coaster was built, but the amusement park had already been around in various incarnations for 48 years.

"Really, it started with that first fair in (August) 1910," she said. "It was called Skid Road. There were children's rides and midway games like an old-school carnival."

Then-prime minister Sir Wilfred Laurier opened the fair and around 5,000 first-day visitors paid a whopping 50-cent admission.

The Vancouver World newspaper ran a story the day after the grand opening referring to the park as being in "the wilderness in eastern Vancouver."

"There was nothing here," said Ballance. "There was a campsite until the early 1930s because it was considered too far to come for a day trip. Most people came by train."

Eventually the neighbourhood of East Vancouver grew up around the park in part thanks to the prize home giveaways.

Ballance said the homes were put on logs on display during the fair, and when someone won a home, the building was pulled off site by Clydesdales to a nearby plot of land.

From Skid Road, the fair evolved into Happy Land with the addition of shoot-the-chute rides. Happy Land was eventually torn down to make way for Playland.

Today the amusement park has more than 40 rides, including two roller-coasters and a log ride, the Drop Zone and Hellevator, a 35-foot climbing wall, midway games, and more.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

Details

- Playland will be open on weekends until the school year ends, then will be open daily.
- For hours and admission visit pne.ca.

In 1910 ...

- The population of Vancouver was around 100,000.
- In March, the first airplane flight west of Winnipeg took place at Minoru Park in Richmond. Around 3,500 people showed up to watch.
- On April 20, a man in Surrey was fined $10 for speeding in his car. He was travelling 19 km/h.
- A car dealer made a record automobile trip to New Westminster from Chilliwack in two hours, 10 minutes.

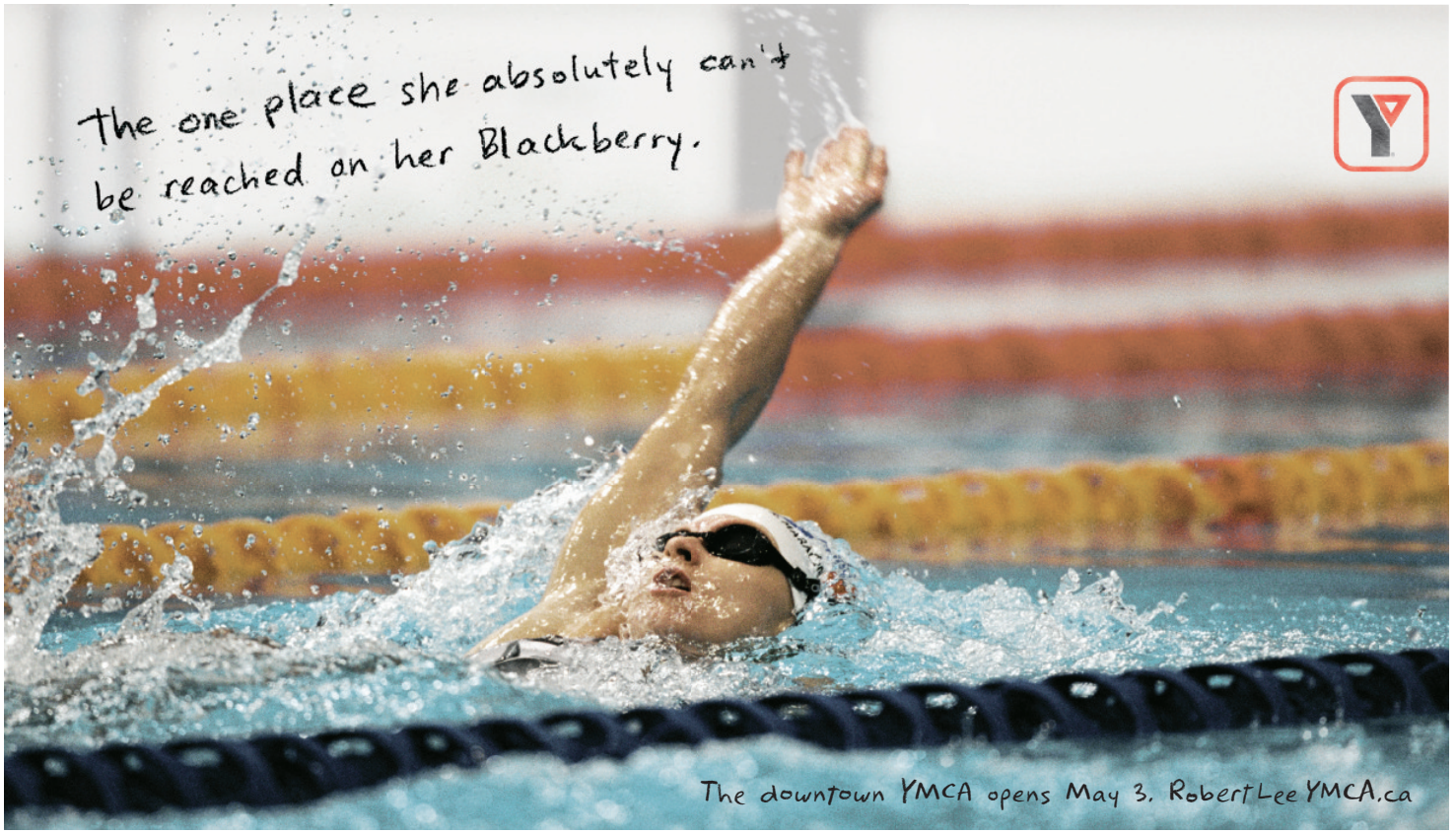
A boy snacks on some cotton candy, a Playland staple, in this 1959 photograph.

The original fair that later evolved into Playland is seen in this 1912 photograph.

The wooden roller-coaster, which opened in 1958, is seen here one year later.

The Legion Thunderbird Room float wins first prize in 1959.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAURA BALLANCE MEDIA GROUP



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Surrey condo development ready for tenants

The third building at a Surrey condo development that burned down in 2008 has been constructed and is ready for tenants. Luxury apartments at Quattro 3 sold out in hours, but the project was put on hold when the development was destroyed in a fire. Sales for the new building will launch on May 1. METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

DEATH Police have arrested a fourth suspect in the 2006 murder of a Surrey man who was assaulted in a Whalley home and left to die on the street. Steven Patrick Iyoupe, 26, has been charged with manslaughter in the death of Garry Glen Harder. METRO VANCOUVER

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Art surfacing

A new public artwork explores False Creek's marine life.

Fiona Bowie's new installation, Surface, will transmit the submarine activity of False Creek via a camera mounted under an aquabus.

The live stream will function as an abstract mix of colours and impressions until crustaceans or fish swim by. After dusk, Surface takes on a more intimate world, when tiny crustaceans, larval animals and eels can be seen.

The project was commissioned as part of the City's Olympic and Paralympic Public Art Program and launched on Thursday. It will track the underwater activity of the urban waterway for up to five years.

The submerged camera will feed streaming video 24 hours a day directly to surfacer.ca. It'll also be connected to a monitor inside the aquabus and to two sites on Granville Island — a large outdoor screen beside the Ocean Construction Supplies site and a TV monitor at the False Creek Community Centre. METRO VANCOUVER

Who is she?

- Fiona Bowie is a UBC graduate and an assistant professor of integrated media at Emily Carr University of Arts & Design.

500 hospital patients warned about possible contact with dirty equipment

HEALTH Almost 500 patients who were diagnosed with liver, pancreas and gallbladder problems at Victoria General Hospital have been warned they may have been examined with unsanitary equipment.

Dr. Richard Crow, chief medical officer of the Vancouver Island Health Authority, says endoscopes used to diagnose patients between January 2008 and January 2010 may not have been cleaned properly.

Letters have been sent to those who may be affected. THE CANADIAN PRESS

We asked: Should Luongo give up the Canucks' captaincy?

"Say what you want but he is the leader of this team. I know the Sedins have stepped up ... but Roberto Luongo is still the face of this franchise." Scott Rintoul
Radio host, Team 1040

"Yes, I'm a loyal Roberto Luongo fan, not a bandwagon fan. He may be shaky sometimes but that guy's awesome, he's our Canadian goalie." Sukhi Atwal
27, Abbotsford

"He can lead without having the burden of the 'C.' Do him the favour and give it to someone who wants it." Tony Wilson, 42, Yaletown

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Spain, Portugal, Morocco
18-Day Tour — was ~~$1830~~ now $1680 $380 Food Fund
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Alaska
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Women apologize for death crash

Two women involved in a hit-and-run that killed a woman crossing a Fredericton intersection in a wheelchair have apologized for their actions. Darcie Victoria West and Tiffany Monroe were to be sentenced along with West's father for the accident last August that killed Dianne Trottier of Toronto, but the sentencing was adjourned. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

It's all clear for takeoff

Air Canada says it plans to operate a full slate of flights to Europe now that ash from an Icelandic volcano is abating — but it will take several days to clear up a passenger backlog. About 102,000 flights were cancelled around the world since the ash began spreading across Europe. Airlines say they lost at least $1.7 billion US in revenue during the crisis. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tax the banks? Don't bank on it

Flaherty rebuffs push by IMF

Canada will not slap a tax on banks to protect against any future financial meltdowns.

That was the defiant message from Finance Minister Jim Flaherty as he stood his ground Thursday on the eve of the G20 meeting of finance ministers.

"We're a sovereign country — we can regulate our banks and our other financial institutions as we see fit," Flaherty said in Washington.

"As finance minister of Canada, I am not going to impose a tax on our banks that performed well during the financial crisis.

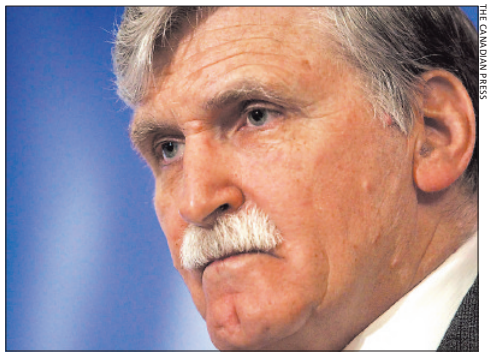
"It seems to me a very odd thing to do, to punish our banks who got the job done admirably."

"Our banks ... performed well during the financial crisis."
Jim Flaherty

But the International Monetary Fund threw its weight behind the bank tax proposal.

The head of the IMF, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, said the levy would reduce the risk of another global financial disaster.

The bank levy was set to be a hot topic of discussion at the G20 meetings on Friday. THE CANADIAN PRESS


THE CANADIAN PRESS

Romeo Dallaire tried and failed to stop the Rwanda massacre.

Bravo GG Jean, says Dallaire

GENOCIDE Senator Roméo Dallaire is welcoming Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean's apology for the world's failure to respond to the Rwandan genocide — a tragedy the retired general tried and failed to prevent.

Dallaire said Jean's comments in Kigali on Wednesday were a great gesture.

The governor general's officials described her message as an apology and said it had been cleared with the government.

But the Prime Minister's Office later insisted that Jean wasn't delivering a formal apology.

"That's irrelevant to me," Dallaire said Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jaffer's blue, but that green fund's red-hot

HANDOUTS It's the green pool at the centre of the Rahim Jaffer controversy.

The Green Infrastructure Fund is flush with federal cash for environmental projects,

Jaffer, husband of turfed Tory minister Helena Guergis, wasn't able to tap into the $1-billion fund, but others have.

About half the cash has already been doled out.

The money is being used for such things as power lines for hydro-electricity in British Columbia and Quebec projects to process garbage.

The Conservative government launched the green fund last year as part of its stimulus plan, a five-year pool of cash to support clean energy and waste management.

Infrastructure Canada manages the money. The agency's website says the fund "will focus on a few, large scale, strategic infrastructure projects."

Provincial and local governments, public-sector bodies, non-profit groups and companies can apply for funding. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Guergis probe already underway: private eye

RCMP moving forward, Snowdy says

The private investigator who brought allegations to the Conservatives about former cabinet minister Helena Guergis says he believes the RCMP have begun a full-fledged investigation into the affair.

Derrick Snowdy says he met with Insp. John Kueper of the RCMP's commercial crime unit on Wednesday in Milton, Ont., and delivered all the electronic and paper files he thought were relevant to the matter.

"It was my second meeting with them and everything has now been turned over to them and I think we can safely say they are satisfied and moving forward," Snowdy said.

"We're already in an investigation. They said, 'We're in the middle of an investigation.'"

The RCMP did not return calls to their offices Thursday.

Guergis and her husband Rahim Jaffer, a former Conservative MP, are fighting allegations that range from illegal lobbying to tax evasion.

They have consistently decried the allegations as unfounded and based in innuendo.

Guergis was expelled from the Conservative caucus two weeks ago when Snowdy approached the Conservative party with details he had heard about offshore accounts allegedly set up for Guergis and Jaffer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Turfed Tory minister Helena Guergis has denied allegations.

Gillani contradicts Jaffer

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Businessman Nazim Gillani is set to testify next week.

BIRDS A Toronto businessman at the centre of allegations surrounding Rahim Jaffer says he was convinced the former MP could help him get government money.

Nazim Gillani's claim contradicts Jaffer's insistence he was not selling lobbying services.

Gillani and Jaffer met at various times to speak about renewable energy projects and whether their firms could do business.

After one of those meetings, Gillani sent an email to other business contacts telling them the doors to the prime minister's office would be opened with Jaffer's help.

Gillani said he had seen Jaffer's websites and "believed the information about government relations services" there.

Jaffer, husband of turfed Tory cabinet minister Helena Guergis, said he never did any lobbying — but simply sought information from government in order to advise firms.

But Gillani insists that is not what he understood, and he will tell MPs that when he testifies next week at the government operations committee. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

HIV Politics played no part in the decision to scrap plans for a multimillion-dollar HIV research facility — it just wasn't needed, says the country's chief public health officer, Dr. David Butler-Jones. What's more, he added, none of the companies vying to build the laboratory passed muster. "None of the bids passed the bar," he said. The $88-million lab was to be the signature component of a joint venture of Canada and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It was announced three years ago by Stephen Harper's Conservative government. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sex ed lessons get a re-think

BIRDS, BEES A new sex ed curriculum that would have seen Ontario kids learn about sexual orientation in Grade 3 and masturbation in Grade 6 will be reworked, Premier Dalton McGuinty said Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Study: Carbon dioxide threatening oceans

According to a new study, carbon dioxide being absorbed from the air is causing the chemistry of the oceans to change faster than it has in hundreds of thousands of years. The U.S. National Research Council reports that, as the oceans get more acidic, coral reefs can be damaged. The change also threatens other sea life from fish to shellfish. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Palin's daughter testifies in hack trial

Bristol Palin testified in Tennessee yesterday that she was 17 and pregnant in 2008 when she received hundreds of phone calls and texts when her number was posted online after her mother's email account was hacked. Palin, left, said she worried when boys called, claiming they were at her front door and wanted in. On trial for hacking the account is David Kernell. Sarah Palin is subpoenaed to testify, but it's unclear if she will.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Europe back in flight

Officials expect it will take days to get all passengers where they need to go

European airports sent thousands of planes into the sky Thursday after a week of unprecedented disruptions, with airlines piling on more flights and bigger planes to try to get as many people home as possible.

Nearly all of the continent's 28,000 scheduled flights, including more than 300 trans-Atlantic routes, were going ahead. Every plane was packed, however, as airlines squeezed in some of the hundreds of thousands who had been stranded for days among passengers with regular Thursday tickets.

Airlines said, despite their efforts, there was no quick and easy solution to cut down the backlog of passengers.

"Quite frankly we don't have an answer to this," said David Henderson, spokesman for the Association of European Airlines, which predicted it would take several days to get all stranded passengers to their destinations. "We don't know where they are and in what numbers, so we would expect it will go on into the early part of next week."

A week of airspace closures caused by the ash threat to planes created the worst breakdown in civil aviation in Europe since the Second World War. More than 100,000 flights were cancelled and airlines are on track to lose over $2 billion. The aviation crisis that began with an April 14 volcanic eruption in Iceland left millions of passengers in limbo and sparked calls for a wholesale reform of Europe's air traffic system.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Winds shift

- Shifting winds sent a new plume of volcanic ash over Scandinavia, forcing some airports to close again. The new airspace restrictions applied to parts of northern Scotland, southern Norway, Sweden and Finland, said Kyla Evans, spokeswoman for Eurocontrol, the European air traffic agency. Some oil rig workers were trapped Thursday on platforms in the North Sea because helicopters were grounded.

Missing rig workers presumed dead

GULF OF MEXICO A deepwater oil platform that burned for more than a day after a massive explosion sank into the Gulf of Mexico on Thursday, creating the potential for a major spill as it underscored the slim chances that the 11 workers still missing survived. The sinking of the Deepwater Horizon, which burned violently until the gulf itself extinguished the fire, could unleash more than 1,135,600 litres of crude a day into the water. The environmental hazards would be greatest if the spill were to reach the Louisiana coast, some 80 kilometres away. Crews searched by air and water for the missing workers, hoping they had managed to reach a lifeboat, but one relative said family members have been told it's unlikely any of the missing survived Tuesday's blast.

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Netanyahu refuses to budge on Israeli settlement issue

MIDDLE EAST Israel's prime minister on Thursday rejected U.S. calls to halt construction in disputed east Jerusalem, clouding a new peace mission by Washington's Mideast envoy.

Benjamin Netanyahu's comments were broadcast on Israel's Channel 2 TV shortly after envoy George Mitchell arrived for his first visit in six weeks. Mitchell's efforts had been on hold due to disagreements over east Jerusalem, the section of the holy city claimed by Israel and the Palestinians.

"I am saying one thing. There will be no freeze in Jerusalem," Netanyahu said. "There should be no preconditions to talks."

Although Netanyahu was repeating his long-standing position, the timing of the statement threatened to undermine Mitchell's latest efforts to restart peace talks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thailand **Protests come to a head in violence**

DAVID GUTTENFELDER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman is rushed to an ambulance after an explosion Thursday in Bangkok. A burst of grenade attacks near a massive encampment of anti-government protesters killed one person and injured 75 after a tense, weekslong standoff. Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban said attackers shot five M-79 grenades. But his brief statement seemed to stop short of directly blaming the protesters, known as the Red Shirts.

Obama urges financial reform

NEW YORK U.S. President Barack Obama rebuked Wall Street for risky practices Thursday even as he sought its leaders' help for "updated, common sense" regulations to head off any new financial crisis.

"Ultimately there is no dividing line between Main Street and Wall Street. We rise or we fall together as one nation. So I urge you to join me," Obama said in a high-stakes speech near the nation's financial hub.

Obama acknowledged differences of opinion over how to best protect bailout-weary taxpayers but denounced criticism from some Republicans who claim a Democratic-sponsored bill headed for Senate action would encourage rather than discourage future bailouts of huge banks. "That may make for a good sound bite, but it's not factually accurate," Obama said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

FRANCE Paris City Hall has filed a complaint against unknown vandals who ripped down and stole three plaques on a city square named to honour Israel's founding father David Ben Gurion. A city spokesman said Thursday that officials first noticed the signs missing a day earlier, and new plaques were being put up. Authorities were investigating.

TURKEY Armenia is freezing its ratification of an agreement to normalize ties with Turkey and reopen their shared border, the Armenian president said Thursday — dealing a setback to efforts to end the countries' long-standing enmity. Turkey closed its border with Armenia in 1993 to protest the Armenia-backed war by separatists in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

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Blagojevich wants Obama to testify
Ex-Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich wants the president to testify at his corruption trial. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Feud leads to fake orgy ad

A man who was feuding with his neighbour targeted her in an explicit online posting that invited strangers to a rowdy orgy with a bored soccer mom, police said.

Philip James Conran, 42, made his first court appearance Thursday, but did not enter a plea to charges including reckless endangerment, harassment, criminal trespass and risk of injury to a minor.

The charges stem from an April 5 posting on Craigslist that said a woman in West Hartford wanted to "please as many as I can before I go to work!" Detectives, Conran's attorney and the woman targeted in the posting are not saying what prompted the feud between the longtime neighbours in the middle-class Hartford suburb. Police Chief James Strillacci said even veteran officers were surprised by the number of strangers who knocked on the woman's door, called the house or drove by.

"We were saying to ourselves, 'The economy must be worse than we think if all of these able-bodied men are able to immediately drop everything and drive over to this neighbourhood'" on a Monday morning, he said.

Conran, an unemployed cook, has been free on $75,000 bond since his arrest. The married father was ordered Thursday to have no contact with his neighbour.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia **Victory dance**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian actors dressed in Second World War uniforms perform before the departure of a retro train called Victory at a railway terminal in Rostov-on-Don, about 1,000 kilometres south of Moscow, on Thursday. The train will move to the south, visiting places of battle to mark the 65th anniversary of the allied victory over Nazi Germany.

U.S. Congress won't get pay raises in 2011

POLITICS Yielding to election-year reality, the Senate passed a bill Thursday to deny members of Congress from receiving their annual pay raises next year.

Democrat Russ Feingold engineered the surprise passage of the legislation, which would deny senators and members of the House of Representatives automatic pay raises of about $1,600 next year.

The Senate passed the measure unanimously without a roll call vote. The House has yet to act on it, but probably will go along, since all House members must face the electorate in November. Congressional lawmakers receive automatic cost-of-living pay increases unless they pass legislation to block it — as they did last year. The last time they opted to take the pay increase was in 2008.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

$174,000
The current annual salary for members of Congress.

News in brief

RULING China's top health body said Thursday that health workers who improperly dispose of dead babies will be "severely dealt with" following an investigation into the dumping of the bodies of 21 babies and fetuses along a river in eastern China last month.

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Homeless man sentenced for plane crash
A homeless man has been sentenced to nine months in jail for stealing and wrecking a single-engine airplane at a Maryland airport. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Earth Day all grown up

The term "Green Movement" was not yet in vogue, and there was little talk of combating global warming.

Instead, the original Earth Day 40 years ago emphasized "ecology" and goals like cleaning up pollution and litter, along with a more anti-establishment vibe than today's environmental movement.

"It was brand new on the scene. We were basically using a new vocabulary," recalled Denis Hayes, who was the 25-year-old national co-ordinator for that first Earth Day.

"So it was all fresh. In 1969, most Americans couldn't even define the word 'environment.' By the end of 1970, a huge fraction of them thought of themselves as environmentalists."

The movement capitalized on the experience and passion of American activists who had organized anti-war, civil rights and feminist rallies in the '60s. Today, the environmental cause is far more sophisticated, Hayes said, with thousands of environmental lawyers and advocates with advanced degrees.

"But some of that passion that we had in 1970 has faded," he said.

The original Earth Day was the brainchild of the late Democratic Senator Gaylord Nelson, who advocated a nationwide teach-in on the environment in a speech in Seattle in September 1969. His daughter, Tia Nelson, said he decided to launch it after a major oil spill in California, and wrote the speech on airplane napkins.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

In this April 23, 1970, file photo, a crowd observing the first Earth Day festivities relaxes in Fairmount Park in Philadelphia.

News in brief

PIRATES Eleven suspected pirates were being flown to the United States on Thursday to stand trial in alleged attacks on U.S. naval vessels off the coast of Africa, officials said. The 11 have been held on U.S. ships for weeks off Africa's pirate-infested coast as officials worked to determine whether and where they could be prosecuted and to prepare legal charges against them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rage over proposed veil ban

FRANCE Muslims in the Arab world are incensed and Muslims in France are walking a delicate line after President Nicolas Sarkozy pushed for an all-out ban on full Islamic veils.

"Ridiculous" and "misplaced," said a Muslim vendor Thursday at an outdoor market in a working class, ethnically mixed Paris suburb. "Racist," said a Sunni Muslim cleric in Lebanon.

The rector of the Muslim Institute of the Paris Mosque, however, held off on harsh criticism, saying only that any ban should be properly explained, and noting that the Qur'an does not require women to cover their bodies and faces.

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Comment

Beware nicotine narcs

UrbanCompass

Once the Vancouver park board's ban on smoking in its 200 parks and 18 beaches goes into effect Sept. 1, the only place left to smoke will be the back alley. How long before those are declared off limits to protect dumpster divers from the toxic effects of second-hand smoke?

Smokers already look haunted and furtive. After Sept. 1, they become outdoor public enemy No. 1, rivalled only by those sociopaths who fail to clean up after their dogs.

We know who you are — and we're coming to get you.

Maybe it's time to set up safe smoking sites so nicotine addicts can get their fix without fear of being apprehended by the long arm of the law, which grows longer by the day.

Meanwhile, they should be careful to smoke only on the lawn of the art gallery, where apparently anything goes, if Tuesday's 4-20 pot smoke-in is any indication.

Of course, it's difficult to feel sorry for you last gaspers. For years, you have treated the beaches as if they were merely larger versions of those big sand-filled ashtrays that used to be common fixtures around elevator and theatre lobbies. And you're right up there with pyromaniacs and lightning when it comes to starting urban brush fires.

However, we are very conflicted when it comes to our addicts. For decades, children were indoctrinated by the tobacco and advertising industries to see smoking as cool. Now it's cool to turn your mother in to the authorities if she dares to smoke in the car while she's driving you to school.

"We are very conflicted when it comes to our addicts."

If you're a heroin addict, the authorities are concerned but sympathetic; if you're a tobacco addict, tough. Stop whining and go cold turkey. We're too busy promoting the latest trendy addiction — gambling.

You have to wonder if the police have enough personnel to enforce all these bans. At this minute, hardened criminals across Canada are heading to Vancouver where the cops are too busy busting hard-core cellphone violators or posing as undercover nicotine narcs to bother with burglars, murderers and extortionists.

It's difficult to identify the lesser of two evils: The current mélange of second-hand smoke and cigarette butts; or the current mania to ban anything remotely annoying. I'm tempted to cast my lot with Joe Camel and the boys, but fresh air and clean beaches sound pretty nice, too.

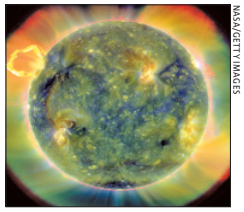
Still, it's just a matter of time before they come for me. If they ever ban pizza all dressed to go because of its contribution to obesity, that's when I'll take a stand. Some things are just sacred.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Noteworthy

New images will change understanding of the sun



NASA/GETTY IMAGES

In this handout from NASA, a full-disk multiwavelength extreme ultraviolet image of the sun taken by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory is seen March 30. The colours represent different gas temperatures, with red being cooler and the blues and greens being hotter.

Billing it as something that will "change textbooks," NASA has unveiled the first spectacular shots taken by the Solar Dynamics Observatory.

The space probe was launched Feb. 11, and is now in orbit around the sun and sending back reams of data.

"SDO will change our understanding of the sun and its processes, which affect our lives and society. This mission will have a huge impact on science, similar to the impact of the Hubble Space Telescope on modern astrophysics," Richard Fisher, director of the Heliophysics Division at NASA, said in a release

The first offerings include high-resolution photographs and short videos. The most stunning video shows a "solar prominence" erupting and arcing thousands of kilometres into space from the sun's surface. The event took place March 30.

Another shot captures the entirety of the star, and demonstrates in colour coding the relative temperatures on its surface. Much of the sun is coloured green and blue — meaning the temperature is around 100,000 C.

SDO is the first mission of NASA's Living With A Star (LWS) program. The goal of LWS is to understand the sun as a magnetic variable star and to measure its impact on life and society on Earth.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Worth mentioning

South Korea takes aim at Net addiction

Day and night, Lee Mihwa's son stays on his computer, slaying dragons in his online fantasy world while his dinner and homework sit untouched.

Lee says the 15-year-old fights her attempts to get him to log off, screaming and physically lashing out at her entreaties. She pulls up her sleeves to reveal bruises she says come from his blows.

Her son is among some two million people classified by the government as "Internet addicts" in South Korea, a nation of 49 million considered one of the most technologically wired in the world.

Some are becoming increasingly violent. Last month, a couple let their three-month-old starve while they raised a virtual child in an online game, spending most of their days at an Internet cafe instead of caring for their newborn, police said.

The baby looked like "a mummy" because she had not been fed for so long, according to a Suwon police officer who investigated the case.

In February, a 22-year-old bludgeoned his mother to death for "nagging" him about playing Internet games, police said. He then played games online for hours, paying with his mother's credit card, a police statement said.

Such incidents have alarmed the country, with the public calling for better measures against gaming addictions. The government announced last month it would take action by restricting access to popular online games, and is sending counsellors to elementary schools to teach children about healthy Internet usage.

26

Three out of 10 Korean adults and some 26 per cent of teenagers are addicted gamers, according to Eo Gee-jun, president of the Korea Computer Life Institute.

"It's a little ironic that what was invented to make our lives better has come to make it worse for some," said Park Hye-kyung, director of the I Will Center, a government-funded counselling centre created in December to focus on the growing issue of Internet addiction.

"Internet addiction" may not be recognized as a medical condition or psychiatric disorder, but it often serves as a symptom of more serious underlying mental disorders such as attention deficit disorder and depression, said Dr. Kim Tae-hoon, a psychiatrist who treats teenagers.

Kim said the Internet is almost too readily available in South Korea. More than 90 per cent of homes have broadband Internet access, according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. In addition to widespread broadband, Internet cafes known as "PC rooms" are open 24 hours throughout the country.

The Culture Ministry announced a joint project with major South Korean gaming companies earlier this month to implement a "late-night shutdown" on Internet games popular among young users. Access to three games will be blocked from midnight until 8 a.m. to users under age 18 when the program goes into effect later this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Nokia boasts surging profits
Nokia Corp.'s first-quarter net profit surged to 349 million euros ($467 million US) from 122 million euros a year earlier, with strong growth in smart phone sales and three per cent growth in total revenue, the company said Thursday.. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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US 0.08¢	US 17.3¢	US 2¢	26.31

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Augusta, Ga. Cannonball's fun

RAINIER EHRHARDT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Club Car driver George (Cannonball) Pennington steps out of the two millionth vehicle made by Club Car, a Village 2+2 LSV, in Augusta, Ga. on Thursday.

Growth will trail, says BoC

Canada is leading the other G7 countries out of recession with the fastest growth in a decade, but it will be trailing those countries in a few years, the Bank of Canada said Thursday.

The central bank's latest economic outlook released Thursday makes several bold predictions, including that Canada's fast start out of last year's slump is already slowing, that the housing boom is fizzling out, and that the country's long-term growth prospects are discouraging.

And governor Mark Carney is cautioning markets not to be so sure Canada's central bank will raise its key interest rates in a matter of weeks.

Mark Carney

On Tuesday, the Canadian dollar shot up more than 1.5 cents to above parity with the U.S. currency after the Bank of Canada said it was dropping its promise not to raise rates before July at the earliest.

But Carney told a news conference Thursday that there is still considerable risk in the global economy, or to anticipating his next move.

"There is nothing pre-ordained from this day forward," Carney said to a question on interest rates.

Most economists interpreted Tuesday's statement as an alert to plan for higher rates in June, but some argued Carney had left himself plenty of wiggle room.

"The Bank of Canada has limited scope to raise interest rates in the next several months," said Brian Bethune, chief economist with IHS Global Insight.

"While we may see one or two token moves to raise the overnight rate by a quarter of a point in the June to October window, action to raise rates will be very limited" by the fact doing so would further boost an already strong dollar.

In Thursday's report, the bank said it is planning for the dollar to hover around parity for the next three years and listed it as a major impediment to strong growth because it will make exports less competitive in global markets.

The dollar hovered just above and below parity throughout the Thursday trading day.

The report says Canada's economy expanded by 5.8 per cent in the just past quarter, the largest advance since 1999, but growth will likely slow to 3.8 per cent in the April-June period, and to 3.5 per cent the rest of the year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Change rules on pensions, says BMO group

MONEY One of Canada's big banking groups says rules for federal retirement savings plans should be changed to give people more control over their pensions.

BMO Financial Group recommends the removal of age restrictions be on registered retirement savings plans, also known as RRSPs, and reduced tax rates for RRIFs, which are registered retirement income funds.

BMO said that Canadians should no longer be forced to convert their RRSPs when they turn 71, and should instead have the choice of when they begin withdrawing the money.

RRIFs are currently one of the main options for retirees after age 71 because they provide for a phased withdrawal of their tax-sheltered savings.

The difficulty with RRIFs is that they must be emptied by a certain age, sometimes resulting in income surges that put the retiree into a high tax bracket.

The banks says RRIFs should only be taxed at a lower rate that "mimics" what might have been paid if the investments had been outside a registered plan. "BMO's view is that the personal savings component cannot be ignored when looking at how we can improve the current pension regime," said Tina Di Vito, head of the BMO's retirement institute.

"We believe an approach based on the principle that individuals should have the flexibility to take control of their retirement savings will benefit Canadians and have an immediate positive impact on baby-boomers on the verge of retirement."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RRSP limit boost?

- Other recommendations included boosting the maximum contribution limit for RRSP so that they're more comparable to defined benefit pensions and also offer a chance for all Canadians to save equally for their retirement.

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New name for Royal Canadian Golf Association

The Royal Canadian Golf Association is rebranding itself as Golf Canada. The name change is effective immediately and brings it in line with other national sport organizations like Hockey Canada, Skate Canada, Baseball Canada and others. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports

Hasek wins another title

Even at age 45, Dominik Hasek, left, is still dominating in goal. Hasek led his hometown club HC Eaton Pardubice to the Czech league title Thursday. Pardubice beat HC Vitkovice Steel 3-2 in overtime in Ostrava to sweep the final 4-0. Hasek came out of retirement last year to play for his former club in the Czech league in the town where he was born and started his career. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Sports in brief

NFL DRAFT Quarterback Sam Bradford was selected first overall in the NFL draft by the St. Louis Rams on Thursday night. The 2008 winner of the Heisman Trophy from Oklahoma is the eighth quarterback since 2001 taken atop the draft. St. Louis was 1-15 last season and scored a league-low 175 points. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Ottawa 4 Pittsburgh 3 (3OT)
Chicago 3 Nashville 0
San Jose 5 Colorado 0

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Montreal at Washington, 4 p.m.
Boston at Buffalo, 4 p.m.
Los Angeles at Vancouver, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Phoenix, 7 p.m.

NBA

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Chicago 108 Cleveland 106
Oklahoma City 101 L.A. Lakers 96
Phoenix 108 Portland 89

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Boston at Miami, 4 p.m.
Dallas at San Antonio, 6:30 p.m.
Denver at Utah, 7:30 p.m.

BASEBALL

THURSDAY'S AL RESULTS
Cleveland 8 Minnesota 1
Oakland 4 N.Y. Yankees 2
Tampa Bay 10 Chicago White Sox 2
Texas 3 Boston 0
Detroit 5 L.A. Angels 4

THURSDAY'S NL RESULTS
Cincinnati 8 L.A. Dodgers 5
Colorado 2 Washington 0
Florida 5 Houston 1
Milwaukee 20 Pittsburgh 0
N.Y. Mets 5 Chicago Cubs 2
Philadelphia 8 Atlanta 3

NFL DRAFT

FIRST ROUND SELECTIONS
1. St. Louis, Sam Bradford, qb, Oklahoma; 2. Detroit, Ndamukong Suh, dt, Nebraska; 3. Tampa Bay, Gerald McCoy, dt, Oklahoma; 4. Washington, Trent Williams, ot, Oklahoma; 5. Kansas City, Eric Berry, db, Tennessee; 6. Seattle, Russell Okung, ot, Oklahoma State; 7. Cleveland, Joe Haden, db, Florida; 8. Oakland, Rolando McClain, lb, Alabama; 9. Buffalo, C.J. Spiller, rb, Clemson.

'A Game we need to win': Luongo

Crucial Game 5 awaits Canucks Friday night

After flirting with disaster, the Vancouver Canucks now have a chance to take control of their first-round series with the Los Angeles Kings.

The Canucks know they must play their best hockey to beat the Kings in Friday night's crucial Game 5 at GM Place (CBC, 7 p.m.).

"We have put ourselves in a situation where we have home-ice advantage," Henrik Sedin said Thursday. "Now we have to do something good about it."

Vancouver goaltender Roberto Luongo said his team can play much better than it has thus far.

"We have had some good stretches, but we know we can be better as a group," said the Canucks captain. "Tomorrow is a big game.

"We want to make sure we come out ready to play and establish our game right off the hop. It's a game we need to win."

The Canucks overcame three, one-goal deficits and Sedin scored with less than three minutes remaining Wednesday for a 6-4 victory that tied the series 2-2.

What started as a best-of-seven Western Conference quarter-final now turns into a best-of-three. The teams play again Sunday in L.A.

The Kings, who are appearing in the playoffs for the first time in eight years, let a chance to take a 3-1 lead in the series slip through their fingers.

But veteran Ryan Smyth says his club can't think about what-ifs and must concentrate on the task at hand.

"When we came into the series we knew it was going to be a long series," Smyth said before boarding a flight to Vancouver. "It's unfortunate we let (Game 4) slip.

"We have to win one game up there. If it's (Friday) great, we can come back here and win it. We'll just take care of Game 5 now."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sami Salo

Sens stay alive with win in third OT period

(Pittsburgh leads series 3-2)

Senators 4 **Penguins** 3 (3 OT)

NHL PLAYOFFS Matt Carkner scored at 7:06 of the third overtime to give the Ottawa Senators a 4-3 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Thursday night, forcing a sixth game in the Eastern Conference series.

Carkner fired a slap shot through traffic from the right point that deflected off the Penguins' Matt Cooke for his first goal of the post-season, ending the longest game of the playoffs this year. It was by far the longest game in Senators' history — only their second to go past one extra session. Game 6 is Saturday night at Ottawa.

Chicago 3 Nashville 0 — Patrick Sharp scored his first two goals of the post-season, and the Chicago Blackhawks finally found their offensive form Thursday night in beating the Nashville Predators 3-0 to tie their opening series at 2-2.

Philadelphia 3 New Jersey 0 — Flyers goalie Brian Boucher was brilliant on Thursday night as Philadelphia beat the New Jersey Devils 3-0 in Game 5 to finish off the series. The Flyers were the last team into the playoffs, but are the first to advance. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Son of a gun

Pg 20

Paul Gross plays The Montana Kid in Gunless, a film that turns the Western genre on its head.

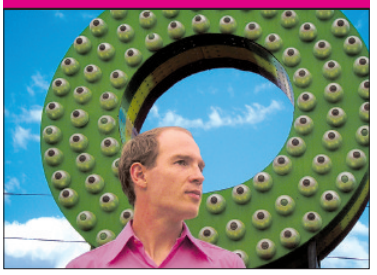
Movies

Pg 21

The Losers brings graphic novel's action to life

Music

Pg 25



Caribou's new imaginative album funded by Polaris win.

Television

Pg 26

TV pilot season brings back a lot of familiar faces.

At a glance
The Losers ⊕⊕½, The Back-Up Plan ⊕, The Secret In Their Eyes ⊕⊕½

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕ A CLASSIC; ⊕⊕⊕⊕ EXCELLENT; ⊕⊕⊕ GOOD; ⊕⊕ FAIR; ⊕ POOR

Gross due North in comic western

Hollywood genre gets Canadian twist in Gunless

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

There was always something that nagged Paul Gross about his famous role as respectable Mountie Benton Fraser on the mid-nineties television drama Due South.

"I never actually had a gun, I had a wedge of wood in my holster," admitted Gross during a recent interview to promote his coincidentally-named new film, Gunless. "So getting to go to work and actually have a real Colt 45, that was just heavenly."

Although Gross stopped short of insisting a real gun was his impetus for taking on the role of a gunslinger in the new Western-style comedy, he does accept that the weapon informed his portrayal.

On the web

- For trailers, screen times and photos — and to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

"They're kind of amazing to hold," said Gross. "I was practising constantly, drawing it and spinning it and trying to do tricks with it …but it's still in the back of your head (that) this is something that could actually kill people. It sort of does something to you."

Gunless opens next Friday

For Gross, it aided in developing The Montana Kid, a bewildered American outlaw that stumbles into a fictional Canadian town and challenges the local blacksmith to a showdown only to discover the hamlet's sedate inhabitants literally gunless — a circumstance that, for an American gunslinger anyway, is utterly confounding.

Paul Gross' The Montana Kid crosses over to Canada in Gunless.

"(The Western genre) isn't a naturally Canadian form. It's really an invention of Hollywood to represent or speak to something about the American frontier spirit," said Gross. "You couldn't get away with making High Plains Drifter and set it in Medicine Hat…but you can import a gunslinger and drop him into a Canadian setting and then you have Gunless."

Of course, Gunless isn't the first movie of Gross' that boasts Canuck roots. He wrote, directed and starred in 2008's Passchendaele, the award-winning drama about one of the most traumatic wartime battles in Canadian history.

But as Gross discovered, turning Alberta foothills into a muddy Belgian battleground wouldn't compare to the staggering conditions the actor faced in blistering southern B.C. when he shot Gunless last summer.

"I find the heat hard to work in because my brain just kind of short circuits. I just feel sort of stunned all the time," chuckled Gross before pausing to reflect on his character.

"Thank God, I didn't have to be too smart!"

Movie feature

Everything fails in back-Up Plan

The Back-Up Plan
Director: Alan Poul
Stars: Jennifer Lopez, Alex O'Loughlin
Classification: PG
Rating: ⊕

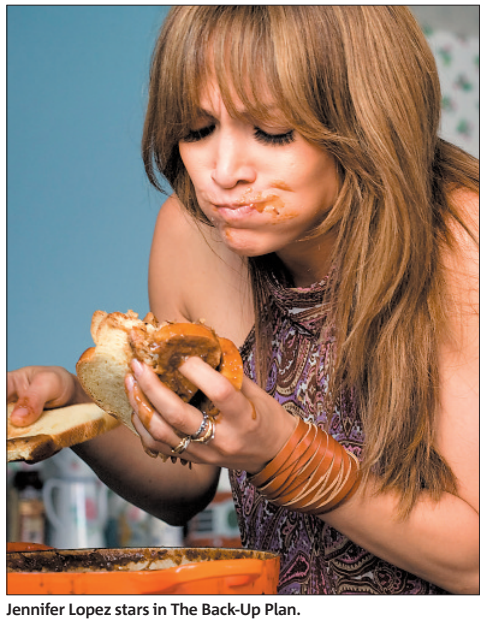
NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

REVIEW The most distracting thing about The Back-Up Plan is Jennifer Lopez's hair. No matter what wacky situation her supposedly quirky and down-to-earth Zoe winds up in, no matter how messy this "comical" look at pregnancy gets, her 'do is always flawless. Even when she's caught in the rain.

It's only the most glaring symptom of the film's tendency to frame Lopez like the glowing pop star she is, not the clumsy, supposedly adorable character she's supposed to be playing. So scrap that whole down-to-earth thing, I guess.

The concept isn't bad for a romantic comedy — single woman decides to stop waiting for a husband to have a kid and gets herself artificially inseminated, only to meet the man of her dreams immediately after — but the execution here takes the air out of it.

While The Back-Up Plan is director Alan Poul's first feature, he's no novice, as he's been directing startlingly good TV for years, (Six Feet Under, Rome), so it's even more surprising that nearly everything on screen falls flat. The pacing of the entire film seems off, almost loopy.



Jennifer Lopez stars in The Back-Up Plan.

But there are a few bright spots of comic relief, including Zoe's time spent with a man-hating single mothers' support group.

And Michaela Watkins, woefully let go from Saturday Night Live last year, manages to salvage any scene she's in as Zoe's sardonic best friend with some less-than-sentimental views on childbirth and motherhood.

- For The Back-Up Plan trailers, screen times and photos, visit metronews.ca/movies

Men in Black ready to return

Director Barry Sonnenfeld has confirmed that Will Smith and, after months of speculation, Tommy Lee Jones will star in Men In Black III. Sony intends to release the threequel in Summer 2011. **EMPIREONLINE.COM**

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

The Losers won't win over audience

The **Losers**

Director: Sylvain White
Stars: Zoe Saldana, Jeffery Dean Morgan
Classification: PG
Rating: ●●½

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Sylvain White's adaptation of lesser-known graphic novel The Losers has a lot going for it, with decent action, gorgeous locations and a talented cast obviously enjoying themselves.

But somehow, there's nothing in it to elevate the film above just all right entertainment. In a word, it's whelming. Not overwhelming, not underwhelming, just whelming.

On top of that, seeing the characters come to life on screen brings into sharp focus how much the original comic was pretty much a new riff on The A-Team.

Luckily, The Losers is getting released a couple months before that TV show's big-budget workout.

See if this sounds familiar: An elite team of soldiers gets double-crossed while on a mission in Latin America.

Assumed to be out of commission by the powers that be, they go off the grid to get their revenge and clear their names through an elaborate and explosion-filled adventure. Leading the team is Clay (Jeffrey Dean Morgan), and while he never actually says it, you can kind of tell he loves it when a plan comes together.

While Morgan and the other Losers (Idris Elba, Chris Evans, Columbus Short and the underused Oscar Jaenada) turn in admirable work, complete with the requisite camaraderie, their story never really shakes off its genre confines.

As lovely as Zoe Saldana is and as fun as it is to see her shouldering a rocket launcher, her Aisha doesn't get a chance to become a real character. Director White (Stomp the Yard) seems to crib from multiple sources, including the Crank and Transporter franchises and the oeuvre of Michael Bay, which is never advisable.

• For a trailer of The Losers, screen times and photos, visit metronews.ca/movies

Zoe Saldana's Aisha turns in some tough action in The Losers.

BASED ON THE WORLDWIDE BESTSELLER
★★★★
"AN EDGE-OF-YOUR-SEAT PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER."
Liz Braun, Sun Media
"This dynamite thriller shivers with suspense. IN A WORD, WOW!"
Peter Travers, Rolling Stone
"Rapace's haunting, enigmatic Lisbeth leaves you eager for the next two installments. SHE'S FANTASTIC, AND SO IS THE MOVIE."
Rene Rodriguez, The Miami Herald
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– Janet Stokes, FILM ADVISORY BOARD

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-Chris Knight, NATIONAL POST

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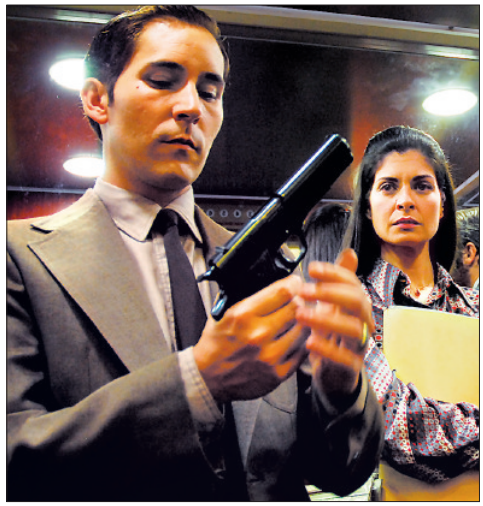
Secret rings hollow

The Secret **In Their Eyes**

Director: Juan Jose Campanella
Stars: Ricardo Darin, Soledad Villamil
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●½

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada


Juan Jose Campanella's thriller The Secret In Their Eyes won the best foreign-language film Oscar this year.

Although it was the surprise winner of this year's Best Foreign-Language Film Academy Award, Juan Jose Campanella's The Secret in Their Eyes doesn't really qualify as cinematic art.

Rather, it's a well-made potboiler, boasting a complicated and at times ludicrous plot that unfolds at the breathless pace of an airport paperback.

This quality is on some level intentional, as the bulk of the narrative is framed as the work of a former Buenos Aires prosecutor (Ricardo Darin) attempting to translate his life experience into a novel.

Darin's Benjamin is introduced as a faintly tragic figure, living alone in his mid-fifties nursing resentment over the case — and the woman — who got away. He finds the latter (Sofia Villamil) working in the same courthouse and gives her the manuscript, only to discover that she's not as interested in revisiting the past.

The idea of characters looking back over a gulf of thirty years has led some critics to interpret The Secret in Their Eyes as a parable of repressed national guilt.

Yet it's hard to take such subtext seriously when the surrounding dialogue and plot details are so florid: a scene where Darin and Villamil interrogate a murder suspect feels like genre-self parody (to say nothing of the final, sledgehammer obvious twist).

Mostly, the film just feels like TV, with Campanella saving all of his stylistic pyrotechnics for a mid-film chase scene in a crowded soccer stadium that unfolds in the space of a single, CGI-assisted shot.

It's an impressive technical feat, but its show-off vibe also rings hollow — much like the film itself.

Movie **morsels**

Alice In Wonderland

●●●

REVIEW Tim Burton was born to adapt the surrealist fantasy Alice In Wonderland. The visually inspired filmmaker is known for the twisted imagination and affection for the bizarre needed to translate Lewis Carroll's classic universe to the screen. From a technical standpoint, his film is a triumph. The eye-candy will captivate anyone watching with those new-fangled 3-D glasses. However, there's little going on to stimulate audiences beyond the visual flourishes.

Phil Brown/For Metro Canada

Date Night

●●●½

REVIEW I'm not entirely sure where Date Night would be without Tina Fey and Steve Carell. After all, the two television comedians-turned-big screen stars take what is an overly familiar premise, directed by an often critically-aloof filmmaker, and turn it into a thoroughly entertaining evening at the multiplex. The pair play Phil and Claire, a bored, married New Jersey couple who try to spice up their weekly "date night" by spontaneously going to a trendy new restaurant in Manhattan. Finding the establishment booked solid, they take another couple's reservation only to get through the risotto before two corrupt cops escort them into an alley and demand a mysterious flash drive. From there, the mistaken marrieds end up on the run, a situation which generates comic coments.

Ned Ehrbar/Metro World News

The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo

●●●●●

REVIEW The highly touted Swedish murder mystery drama The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo comes highly recommended: It's as intimate and detailed as it is epic and jarring. Based on the posthumously published novel by Swedish mystery writer Stieg Larsson, director Niels Arden Oplev's powerful and very faithful film adaptation stars Michael Nyqvist as shamed investigative journalist Mikael Blomkvist, who is framed for a crime he didn't commit. As he prepares for his impending prison sentence, a mysterious tattooed, pierced tomboy punk girl is following him. She's Lisbeth (Noomi Rapace), the dragon inked girl of the title, a streetwise computer hacker who, after a wealthy patriarch hires Blomkvist to uncover who in his family murdered his beloved, long dead niece, becomes the scribe's partner.

Chris Alexander/For Metro Canada

Hot Tub Time Machine

●●●½

REVIEW As you might have guessed from the title, Hot Tub Time Machine is a stupid comedy, but fortunately it's a self-aware stupid comedy that mines laughs out of how ridiculous it all is. No movie with that title should work, but this is a surprisingly funny little crowd pleaser.

Phil Brown/For Metro Canada

Nicholson in Vegas
According to Vulture, Jack Nicholson is circling CBS Films' LASt Vegas, a geriatric version of The Hangover. The script centres on four elderly men who reunite for the marriage of Billy, the last bachelor holdout of the bunch. IMDB.COM

Zoe Saldana seen here in the forgettable Britney Spears starrer Crossroads.

Saldana's career reaches new heights

InFocus
Richard Crouse
metronews.ca/infocus

Zoe Saldana's career is white hot after starring roles in Star Trek and Avatar but she is no newcomer.

She's been a big screen regular for ten years, even appearing in the odd blockbuster like Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl and working with high end directors like Steven Spielberg, but she didn't become a household name until last year.

The actress, who describes herself as "a cool geek who happens to dress nice," hopes to add to her growing box office clout this weekend with The Losers, a wild action movie based on the comic book series of the same name.

She may have become a bold face name sucking up to the fanboys but she hasn't always played comic-book characters, giant blue aliens or iconic sci fi characters.

Early roles included a sharp-tongued aspiring dancer in Center Stage and the prim-and-proper best friend of Britney Spears in Crossroads — although she'd probably rather forget that one. Roger Ebert said,

"I went to Crossroads expecting a glitzy bimbofest and got the bimbos but not the fest," but it was another dance role in Drumline that earned her the best notices of her budding career.

In the time between Drumline and Star Trek, however, she made thirteen films, some big, like Pirates, some so small they barely made a blip on the screen.

For example, Haven, a complex crime drama set in the Cayman Islands scarcely made it past a festival run, but is well worth a look on DVD. Mixing and matching stories of corrupt businessmen, tax havens and romance it was too out-of-the-box for general audiences, but Saldana shines (the L.A. Times called her performance "sweet and complicated") opposite her Pirates' co-star Orlando Bloom.

Also unfairly relegated to the bargain bin was Ways of the Flesh, a 2005 medical comedy about a chief resident at a Florida Hospital who also happens to be a stand-up comedian. Saldana plays an artist whose life was once saved by the main character.

Directed by real-life doctor-turned-filmmaker Dennis Cooper, it's a sweet and funny film about not taking yourself too seriously. Dues paid, Saldana now stars in blockbusters, which has benefits other than the juicy paycheques. In the past she says she was often mistaken for Thandie Newton — so much so that her own mother once confused the two of them — but given her recent success I'm guessing it's now Newton who gets mistaken for Saldana.

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchaos33@hotmail.com.

Super Furry fun

Critters send eco-friendly message in Fraser film

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

What happens when fuzzy animals learn that soulless businessmen plan to bulldoze their woodland paradise to build a suburb?

Well, obviously they take revenge by pulling a variety of goofy pranks that typically end with the poor sucker in charge of the project getting hit in the groin.

Animals have it out for Brendan Fraser's character in Furry Vengeance.

"I made the director promise that this would not be a movie about talking animals. There are enough of those already."
Brendan Fraser

At least, that's what happens in the upcoming family farce Furry Vengeance starring Brendan Fraser and Brooke Shields. The stars recently made a trip to Toronto where they discussed their environmental slapstick comedy with Metro.

Furry Vengeance opens next Friday

Given his career-long commitment to physical comedy, the project is certainly not a surprise for Fraser who was pleased to add it to his wacky resume.

"I thought it would be fun to play a complete doofus who is well meaning, but mis-prioritized," claimed Fraser.

"Plus there's a timeliness to the environmental theme in a way that doesn't cram anything down your throat, but still teaches little kids to be nice to nature." However, Fraser did cop to one requirement he insisted on before accepting the role.

"I made the director promise that this would not be a movie about talking animals. There are enough of those already," joked the actor.

Brooke Shields (who plays Fraser's wife) admitted that she was also a little trepidatious about signing on to a wacky animal picture, but changed her tone when she learned about her potential co-star.

"I am completely enamoured with Brendan and that was a huge selling point to be in the film," admitted Shields. "And then the fact that animals weren't speaking and there was a subtle, yet poignant message helped as well."

The actors' genuine appreciation for each other was evident both in their giggly duo interview and their onscreen chemistry.

But of course, this isn't just a two-actor movie. In addition to all their furry co-stars Fraser and Shields share the screen with a cavalcade of scene-stealing comedians like The Hangover's Ken Jeong and Daily Show alum Rob Riggle.

"That was another golden rule: to populate the cast with great comic actors so there was a sort of funny Greek chorus," said Fraser.

This comedy style inevitably led to a great deal of improvisational one-upsmanship between the performers. "We always did one take as written for the studio and then when the parents went away we were all allowed to have fun," noted Fraser.

This led to an open atmosphere on set that the entire cast responded to. "We are all the type of people who hunger for that freedom and thrive on it," said Shields.

The result is an incredibly silly comedy in which the entire cast joyfully makes fools of themselves. It's certainly not high art, but a playful family movie that both Brooke Shields and Brendan Fraser hope that other children will appreciate as much as their own.

Screen Times

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Journey Into Amazing Caves (STC) Fri-Thu 3
Journey to Mecca in the Footsteps of Ibn Battuta (STC) Fri-Thu 1
The Ultimate Wave Tahiti (STC) Fri-Thu 12-2-4

CN IMAX THEATRE
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DUNBAR THEATRE
4555 Dunbar Street, 604-222-2991
Kick-Ass (18A) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 4-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30

FIFTH AVENUE CINEMAS
2110 Burrard Street, 604-734-7469
Date Night (PG) Fri 1:30-3:30-5:30-7:30-9:20 Sat 1:30-3:30-5:30-7:30 Sun-Thu 1:30-3:30-5:30-7:30-9:20
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Fri 1-4-7 Sat-Thu 1-4-7-10
Kick-Ass (18A) Fri-Sun 9:45 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:15-7:20-9:45
Oceans (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:20-5:20-7:10-9
Projecting Change Film Festival (STC) Fri-Sun
The Secret In Their Eyes (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-6:50-9:30

GRANVILLE
855 Granville St., 604-684-4000
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri 6:50-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:25-4:05-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:20
Green Zone (14A) Fri 7-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:15-4:20-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:25
The Hurt Locker (14A) Fri 6:40-9:25 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:55-6:40-9:25 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:10
The Last Song (G) Fri 6:45-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:20-4-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:35-8:15
The Last Station (14A) Fri 6:55-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:35-4:15-6:55-9:35 Mon-Thu 5:25-8:05
The Runaways (14A) Fri 7:05-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:10-7:05-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:30
She's Out of My League (14A) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:30-3:50-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:40-8

HOLLYWOOD THEATRE
3123 W. Broadway, 604-738-3211
hollywoodtheatre.ca
It's Complicated (PG) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30
Leap Year (PG) Fri 9:35 Sat-Sun 3:35-9:35 Mon-Thu 9:35

OAKRIDGE
650 West 41st Ave., 604-263-1944
Date Night (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 7:15-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 2-4:30-7:15-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 5:20-8:15
How to Train Your Dragon (G) DTS Digital Fri 6:45-9:15 DTS Digital Sat-Sun 1:45-4:05-6:45-9:15 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 5:10-8
Kick-Ass (18A) DTS Digital Fri 7-9:45 DTS Digital Sat-Sun 1:30-4:15-7-9:45 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 5-7:45

PACIFIC CINÉMATHÈQUE
1131 Howe Street, 604-688-3456
cinematheque.bc.ca
Eleftherios Venizelos (STC) Sun 6:30 Mon 7
The Great Love Songs (STC) Sat 9:15 Sun 5
Happy Day (STC) Sat 7:15
Love Letters and Live Wires: Highlights From the GPO Film Unit (STC) Wed-Thu 7
Quiet Days in August (STC) Fri 7 Sat 5

PARK THEATRE
3440 Cambie Street, 604-876-2747
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (G) Fri 4-7-9 Sat-Sun 1:45-4-7-9 Mon-Thu 4-7-9
Madagascar (G) A.M. Sat 10

RIDGE THEATRE
3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311
The Back-Up Plan (PG) Fri 4-7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:45-4-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:15

RIO ON BROADWAY
1660 E. Broadway, 604-878-Film
riotheatre.ca
The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (STC) Thu
Dear John (PG) Wed 12
House of 1000 Corpses (18A) Fri 12 Sun-Tue 12
Neil Young Trunk Show (G) Fri 9:30 Sun-Tue 9:30
Prince of Darkness (STC) Fri Sun-Tue
Rust Never Sleeps (STC) Fri 7 Sun-Tue 7
Silent Films (STC) Thu 8

SCOTIABANK THEATRE VANCOUVER
900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407
Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:10-6:45-9:30
Avatar 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 11:45-3:20-6:50-10:20 Mon-Thu 2-6:30-10:20
Clash of the Titans 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:15-7:50-10:45
Date Night (PG) Fri 12:10-2:30-5:7:40-10:10 Sat 3:50-7:20-9:50 Sun-Thu 12:10-2:30-5-7:40

Screen Times

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., APR. 23 TO THURS., APR. 29. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

10:10 Fri 1:10-3:50-7:20-9:50 Sat 12:10-2:35-5-7:40-10:10 Sun-Tue 1:10-3:50-7:20-9:50 Wed 1:10-3:50-9:50 Thu 1:10-3:50-7:20-9:50
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Fri-Thu 12-3:30-7:10-10:30
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4-7:45-10:25 Mon 1:30-4-10:25 Tue 7:45-10:25 Wed 1:30-4-10:25 Thu 1:30-4-7:45-10:25
Kick-Ass (18A) Fri-Thu 12:30-1-3:40-4:10-7-7:30-10-10:40
The Metropolitan Opera: Hamlet Encore (STC) Sat 10

TINSELTOWN
International Village, 88 West Pender, 3rd floor, 604-806-0799
cinemark.com

The Back-Up Plan (PG) No Passes Fri 1-2:15-3:30-4:45-6:05-7:15-8:30-9:45 No Passes Sat 11:45-1-2:15-3:30-4:45-6:05-7:15-8:30-9:45 No Passes Sun-Thu 1-2:15-3:30-4:45-6:05-7:15-8:30-9:45
Chloe (18A) Fri 2:35-4:55-7:25-9:50 Sat 12:10-2:35-4:55-7:25-9:50 Sun-Thu 2:35-4:55-7:25-9:50
Control Alt Delete (STC) No Passes Fri 2:55-5:10-7:35-10:05 No Passes Sat 12:35-2:55-5:10-7:35-10:05 No Passes Sun-Thu 2:55-5:10-7:35-10:05
Death at a Funeral (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:15-3:25-5:45-7:55-10:10
The Ghost Writer (PG) Fri-Thu 7:20-10:15
How to Train Your Dragon (G) Fri 2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15 Sat 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15 Sun-Thu 2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (G) Fri-Sat 1:30-4-6:30-9 Sun 4-6:30-9 Mon-Thu 1:30-4-6:30-9
Kenny Chesney: Summer in 3D (G) A.M., No Passes Sat 11:30 No Passes Sun 2
The Losers (PG) No Passes Fri 1:45-3-4:15-5:30-6:45-8-9:15-10:30 No Passes Sat 12:30-1:45-3-4:15-5:30-6:45-8-9:15-10:30 No Passes Sun-Thu 1:45-3-4:15-5:30-6:45-8-9:15-10:30
Oceans (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:10-3:15-5:20-7:30-9:35
A Shine of Rainbows (G) Fri 1:55-4:25 Sat 11:35-1:55-4:25 Sun-Thu 1:55-4:25
Shutter Island (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:10-10:20

VANCITY THEATRE
Vancouver International Film Centre 1181 Seymour Street, 604-683-Film vifc.org

Children of Invention (STC) Fri-Sat 6:30 Sun 4:30 Mon 6:30 Wed 8:30 Thu 6:30
Encirclement: Neo-Liberalism Ensnares Democracy (STC) Sat-Sun 1:30
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue
Parking (18A) Fri 8:15 Sat 4:30 Sun 6:15 Mon 8:15 Wed 6:30 Thu 8:15

VAN EAST CINEMA
2290 Commercial Drive, 604-251-1313 vaneast.com

Kick-Ass (18A) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 4:40-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20

NORTH SHORE

ESPLANADE 6
200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

Alice in Wonderland (PG) Fri 6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 4:10-6:50-9:30 Mon-Tue 6:50-9:30 Wed-Thu 9:30
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri 6:40-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:50-6:40-9:15 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:15
Clash of the Titans (14A) Fri 7-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:20-7-9:35 Mon-Thu 7-9:35
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri-Thu 7:20-9:45
How to Train Your Dragon (G) Fri 7:15-9:40 Sat-Sun 2:10-4:40-7:15-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:30-4
Kenny Chesney: Summer in 3D (G) No Passes Sat-Sun 2 Wed-Thu 7:30
The Losers (PG) No Passes Fri 7:25-9:50 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:50-4:30-7:25-9:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:25-9:50

PARK & TILFORD
333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

Avatar 3D (14A) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 12:20-4-8 Mon-Thu 8
The Back-Up Plan (PG) Fri 6:30-9 Sat-Sun 12-3-6:30-9 Mon-Thu 6:30-9 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Date Night (PG) Fri 6:40-9:10 Sat-Sun 12:10-3:10-6:40-9:10 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:10
Death at a Funeral (14A) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:30-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Kick-Ass (18A) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:40-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:50
The Last Song (G) Fri 6:50-9:20 Sat 3:20-6:50-9:20 Sun 12:30-3:20-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:20
The Metropolitan Opera: Hamlet Encore (STC) Sat 10

RICHMOND

RICHMOND CENTRE 6
6551 #3 Road, 604-273-7173

The Back-Up Plan (PG) Fri 4:25-7:05-9:40 Sat 1:40-4:25-7:05-9:40 Sun 1:40-4:25-7:05 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:05
Clash of the Titans (14A) Fri 4:35-7:15-9:50 Sat 1:50-4:35-7:15-9:50 Sun 1:50-4:35-7:15 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:15
Date Night (PG) Fri 4:40-7:20-9:45 Sat 1:55-4:40-7:20 Sun 1:55-4:40-7:20 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:20
How to Train Your Dragon (G) Fri 4:15-6:55-9:30 Sat 1:30-4:15-6:55-9:30 Sun 1:30-4:15-6:55 Mon-Thu 4:15-6:55
Kick-Ass (18A) Fri 4:30-7:10-9:55 Sat 1:45-4:30-7:10-9:55 Sun 1:45-4:30-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:10
The Last Song (G) Fri 4:20-7-9:35 Sat 1:35-4:20-7-9:35 Sun 1:35-4:20-7 Mon-Thu 4:20-7

SILVERCITY RIVERPORT
14211 Entertainment Way, 604-272-7280

Alice in Wonderland (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10
Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) Fri 12:30-3:30-6:45-9:30 Sat-Sun 3:30-6:45-9:30 Mon-Tue 12:30-3:30-6:45-9:30 Wed-Thu 12:30-3:30-9:30
Avatar (14A) Fri 12:30-3:50-7:05-10:30 Sat 3:50-7:05-10:30 Sun 12:30-10:30 Mon-Thu 12:30-3:50-7:05-10:30
The Back-Up Plan (PG) Fri-Wed 12:25-3:35-7:10-10:20 Thu 3:35-7:10-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri-Thu 9:30
Clash of the Titans (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-6:55-10
Clash of the Titans 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-7:30-10:30
Date Night (PG) Fri-Thu 1:35-4:35-7:15-7:40-9:55-10:25
Death at a Funeral (14A) Fri-Wed 1:25-4:40-7:50-10:40 Thu 4:40-7:50-10:40 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:45-6:35-9:25 Mon 12:50-3:45-9:25 Tue-Thu 12:50-3:45-6:35-9:25
Ekam - Son of Soil (STC) Fri-Thu 12:15-4:05-8:05
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Fri-Thu 2:30-6:30-10:10
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri-Wed 12:40-3:25-6:50-9:40 Thu 12:40-6:50-9:40
How to Train Your Dragon (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:55-6:40
How to Train Your Dragon: An IMAX 3D Experience (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15-7-9:30
Kenny Chesney: Summer in 3D (G) Sat-Sun 1 Wed-Thu 7
Kick-Ass (18A) Fri-Thu 1-1:30-4-4:30-7-7:45-10:15-10:45
The Last Song (G) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:20-7:25-10:35
The Losers (PG) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:40-7:20-10:30
The Metropolitan Opera: Hamlet Encore (STC) Sat 10
Oceans (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:15-4:30-6:45-9:15
WWE: Extreme Rules (STC) Sun 5

Clockwise for left, Martin Lawrence, Tracy Morgan, Chris Rock and Peter Dinklage get their laughs on in Death At A Funeral.

BURNABY

DOLPHIN CINEMAS
4555 E. Hastings St., 604-293-0332

The Back-Up Plan (PG) Fri 5-7:10-9:20 Sat-Sun 1-3-5-7:10-9:20 Mon-Thu 5-7:10-9:20
Clash of the Titans (14A) Fri-Thu 7-9:10
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (G) Fri 5 Sat-Sun 1-3-5 Mon-Thu 5

SILVERCITY METROPOLIS
4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474

10 Days X Canada (STC) Wed 7
Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:15-6:45-9:55
The Back-Up Plan (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:20-7:05-9:45
Clash of the Titans (14A) Fri-Sat 7:10-10 Sun 10:10 Mon-Tue 7:10-10 Wed 10:10 Thu 7:10-10
Clash of the Titans 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 11:30-2:15-4:50-7:40-10:30
Date Night (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:55-9:35
Death at a Funeral (14A) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:35-7:20-9:50
How to Train Your Dragon (G) Fri-Sat 11:45-2:20-4:40 Sun 11:45-2:20 Mon-Thu 11:45-2:20-4:40
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (G) Fri-Thu 11:15-1:45-4:20-6:50-9:25
Kick-Ass (18A) Fri-Thu 12-3:30-7:10-10
The Losers (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-7:35-10:15
Oceans (G) No Passes Fri 11:30-2-4:15-6:45-9:30 No Passes Sat 12:05-2-4:15-6:45-9:30 No Passes Sun-Thu 11:30-2-4:15-6:45-9:30
WWE: Extreme Rules (STC) Sun 5

STATION SQUARE
220-6200 McKay Ave., 604-434-7711

Avatar (14A) Fri 4:30-8:30 Sat-Sun 1-4:30-8 Mon-Thu 4:7:35
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri 4:05-7:10:05 Sat 1:05-4:05-7:10:05 Sun 1:05-4:05-7 Mon-Thu 4:05-7:05
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (G) Fri 4:25-7:25-10:25 Sat 1:30-4:25-7:25-10:25 Sun 1:30-4:25-7:25 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:30
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri 4:20-7:20-10:20 Sat 1:25-4:20-7:20-10:20 Sun 1:25-4:20-7:20 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:25
The Last Song (G) Fri 4:10-7:05-10:10 Sat 1:10-4:10-7:05-10:10 Sun 1:10-4:10-7:05 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10
She's Out of My League (14A) Fri 7:10 Sat-Sun 1:15-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:15
A Shine of Rainbows (G) Fri 4:15-7:15-10:15 Sat 1:20-4:15-7:15-10:15 Sun 1:20-4:15-7:15 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:20
Shutter Island (14A) Fri-Sat 4:10 Sun 4 Mon-Thu 7

COQUITLAM

SILVERCITY COQUITLAM
170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

Alice in Wonderland (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:45-7:20
Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) Fri 11:55-3-6:45-9:50 Sat-Sun 3-6:45-9:50 Mon-Tue 11:55-3-6:45-9:50 Wed-Thu 11:55-3-9:50
Avatar (14A) Fri 12:40-5-9 Sat 5-9 Sun 12:40-9 Mon-Thu 12:40-5-9
The Back-Up Plan (PG) Fri-Tue 12:20-3:20-7:15-10:15 Wed 3:20-7:15-10:15 Thu 12:20-3:20-7:15-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-3-7:25-10:15
Clash of the Titans (14A) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:15-6:50-9:45
Clash of the Titans 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 1-4-7:20-10:30
Date Night (PG) Fri-Thu 12:05-1:10-3:10-4:10-7:7:30-9:30-10:10
Death at a Funeral (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:25-7:35-10:20
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (G) Fri-Thu 11:50-2:25-4:50-7:25-9:55
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Fri-Thu 2-6:50-10:10
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri-Thu 12:55-4:15-7:35-10:40
How to Train Your Dragon (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:30-6:55-9:40
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (G) Fri-Thu 11:45-2:10-4:45-7:30-10
Kenny Chesney: Summer in 3D (G) Sat-Sun 1 Wed-Thu 7
Kick-Ass (18A) Fri-Thu 12:35-1:20-3:50-4:35-7:10-7:45-10:05-10:45
The Last Song (G) Fri-Tue 12:35-3:35-7:05-9:55 Wed 3:35-7:05-9:55 Thu 12:35-3:35-7:05-9:55 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Losers (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:20-7:40-10:25
The Metropolitan Opera: Hamlet Encore (STC) Sat 10
Oceans (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:15-4:30-7-9:15
Shutter Island (14A) Fri-Thu 10:05
WWE: Extreme Rules (STC) Sun 5

SURREY

CLOVA
5732-176th St., Surrey, 604-541-9527

The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri-Thu 7
The Ghost Writer (PG) Fri-Thu 9:05
How to Train Your Dragon (G) Sat-Sun 1:30

HOLLYWOOD 3 CINEMA
7125-138th Street, Surrey, 604-592-4441

Avatar (14A) Fri 5:20-8:30 Sat-Sun 2-5:20-8:30 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:30
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri-Thu 4:45-6:50
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (G) Fri 5:15 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:30-5:15 Mon-Thu 5:15
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri-Thu 7:10-9:15
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Sat-Sun 12-2:15
Shutter Island (14A) Fri-Thu 9
Tooth Fairy (G) Sat-Sun 12

STRAWBERRY HILL GRANDE
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey, 604-501-9400

The Back-Up Plan (PG) Fri-Tue 1:15-4:20-7:45-10:20 Wed 4:20-7:45-10:20 Thu 1:15-4:20-7:45-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Clash of the Titans 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:40-7:15-10:10
Date Night (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:05
Death at a Funeral (14A) Fri-Tue 1:10-3:50-6:45-9:20 Wed 3:50-6:45-9:20 Thu 1:10-3:50-6:45-9:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Ekam - Son of Soil (STC) Fri-Thu 11:50-3:20-7-10:30
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (G) Fri-Thu 11:45-2:20-4:50-7:25-9:50
Jawani Zindabad (PG) Fri-Sat 1-4:30-8 Sun 1-9 Mon-Thu 1-4:30-8
Kick-Ass (18A) Fri-Thu 12:30-4-7:50-10:35
The Last Song (G) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:45-6:50-9:30
The Losers (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-4:10-7:10-9:45
Oceans (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:30-5-7:30-10
Paathshaala (G) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:30-6:40-9:40
WWE: Extreme Rules (STC) Sun 5

STUDIO 12 GUILDFORD
15051-101st Ave, Surrey, 604-581-1176

Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 1:40-4:15-7:05-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 4:15-7:05-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 1:40-4:15-7:05-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:40-4:15-9:40
The Back-Up Plan (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-3:55-6:50-9:30
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:25-4:05-6:40-9:15
Clash of the Titans 3D (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:35-4:10-6:45-9:20
Date Night (PG) Fri-Wed 2:05-4:35-7:10-9:25 Thu 2:05-4:35-9:25
Death at a Funeral (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2:10-4:30-7:20-9:45
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 1:50-4:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:50
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-3:50-6:35-9:05
Kenny Chesney: Summer in 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 2 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 7:30
Kick-Ass (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:25-7:15-10
The Last Song (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:45-4:20-6:55-9:35
The Losers (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 2-4:45-7:25-9:50
Oceans (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:50-4-7-9:10

RIALTO
1732-152nd Street, White Rock, 604-541-9527, criteriontheatres.com

The Back-Up Plan (PG) Fri 7-9:05 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:05 Mon-Thu 7-9:05
Date Night (PG) Fri 7:10-9 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9 Mon-Thu 7:10-9

CRITERION 4 WHITE ROCK
2381 King George Highway, 604-531-7456, criteriontheatres.com

How to Train Your Dragon (G) Fri 7-9 Sat-Sun 2:20-7-9 Mon-Thu 7-9
Kick-Ass (18A) Fri 7:30-9:40 Sat-Sun 2-7:30-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:30-9:40
The Last Song (G) Fri 7:10-9:15 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9:15 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:15
The Losers (PG) No Passes Fri 7:20-9:20 No Passes Sat-Sun 2:30-7:20-9:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:20-9:20

COLOSSUS LANGLEY
20090-91A Ave, Langley, 604-513-8747

Alice in Wonderland (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30 Mon-Thu 3:30
Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) Fri 1:15-4:25-7:20-10:20 Sat-Tue 4:25-7:20-10:20 Wed-Thu 4:25-10:20
Avatar (14A) Fri 12:15-3:35-6:55-10:25 Sat 3:35-6:55-10:25 Sun 12:15-10:25 Mon-Thu 3:35-6:55-10:25
The Back-Up Plan (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:55-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 3:55-7:10-9:50
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri-Thu 7:10-10:10
Clash of the Titans (14A) Fri-Sun 12:10-3:30-7:05-9:55 Mon-Thu 3:30-7:05-9:55
Clash of the Titans 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-4:7:40-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:7:40-10:20
Date Night (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:55-7:7:35-9:40-10:15 Mon-Tue 3:55-7:7:35-9:40-10:15 Wed 7:7:35-9:40-10:15 Thu 3:55-7:7:35-9:40-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
Death at a Funeral (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:40-7:15-9:45 Mon-Thu 3:40-7:15-9:45
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (G) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:35-5:7:40-10:05 Mon-Thu 5:7:40-10:05
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Fri-Sun 12:05-3:35-7:10:30 Mon-Thu 3:35-7:10:30
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri-Sun 1:35-4:35-7:25-10:15 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:25-10:15
How to Train Your Dragon (G) Fri-Sun 1-3:50 Mon-Thu 3:50
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:30-5:10-7:45-10:25 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:45-10:25
How to Train Your Dragon: An IMAX 3D Experience (G) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:15-7:9:40 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:9:40
Kenny Chesney: Summer in 3D (G) Sat-Sun 1 Wed-Thu 7
Kick-Ass (18A) Fri-Sun 12:20-1:05-3:50-4:20-6:50-7:30-10:10:30 Mon-Thu 3:50-4:20-6:50-7:30-10:10:30
The Last Song (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:05-6:55-9:50 Mon-Tue 4:05-6:55-9:50 Wed 6:55-9:50 Thu 4:05-6:55-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
The Losers (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:45-7:25-10:05 Mon-Thu 3:45-7:25-10:05
The Metropolitan Opera: Hamlet Encore (STC) Sat 10
Oceans (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-2:20-4:45-7:15-9:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:45-7:15-9:45
WWE: Extreme Rules (STC) Sun 5

TWILIGHT DRIVE-IN
260th Street & Fraser Highway, Langley, 604-856-5063

From Paris With Love (14A) Fri-Sat 12:45
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri-Sat 8:30 Sun-Thu 10:30
Kick-Ass (18A) Fri-Sat 10:30 Sun-Thu 8:30

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Top 5 albums on the Billboard 200
1. My World 2.0, Justin Bieber; 2. Congratulations, MGMT; 3. Need You Now, Lady Antebellum; 4. Raymond V Raymond, Usher; 5. Year of the Black Rainbow, Coheed and Cambria. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Caribou takes a dip

Polaris winner uses prize money to fund new album Swim

CAM LINDSAY
for Metro Canada

"Being awarded anything still seems surreal to me."

Nearly two years after taking home a $20,000 cheque and the coveted Polaris Music Prize in 2008 for his album Andorra, Dan Snaith is still remarkably humble about it. He really shouldn't be though.

Under his musical pseudonym Caribou, Snaith has released some of the most vividly sublime and carefully calculated headphone music not just by a Canadian but by an artist of any nationality. His meticulous attention to detail, which could be linked to his prowess in mathematics (he holds a PhD in the subject), has made him one of the most distinct musicians going — but try telling him that.

With his new album Swim, Snaith felt he needed to make his definitive statement as Caribou. "I'm really proud of all my albums, they all feel like a part of me," Snaith admits. "But this album, the main idea for me was to make it the most 'me' possible. I didn't want people to be like, 'Oh, this was influenced by this, this was influenced by that.' And that just led to me making it the most identifiable album that I've made. Maybe that's a confidence thing, I don't know."

"Andorra was definitely the pop album for me. It's the poppiest I'm ever going to be, presumably. Swim is more all-encompassing."
Dan Snaith

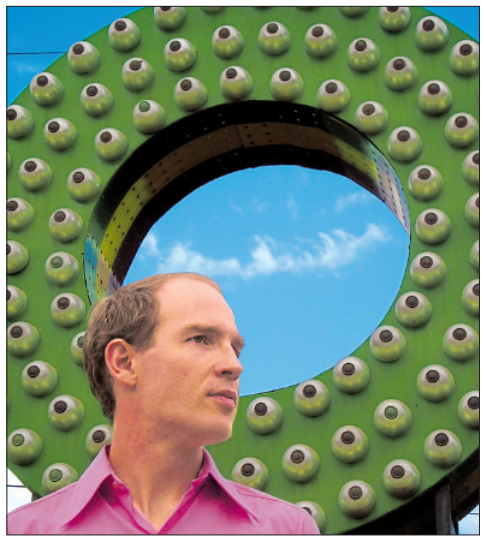
Like any of Caribou's five albums, Swim is a deeply imaginative work built of kaleidoscopic melodies, astounding percussion and vibrant textures. While each of his previous albums were all very individual pieces inspired by a specific style of music, Swim represents the clearest picture of what exactly the Caribou sound is.

"I feel that each of the albums represented a different side of my musical tastes. It's not a conscious thing though," he says. "Andorra was definitely the pop album for me. It's the poppiest I'm ever going to be, presumably. Swim is more all-encompassing. It contains a bit of the pop element from Andorra, the dance music influence, a bit of the psychedelic thing going on — all of the things that excite me about music are in there somewhere it seems to me, anyway."

And when it comes to how he pulled it off, Snaith credits the money he received from his Polaris win as the main reason he was able to make this album. "In a prosaic respect it meant that I could do things on this album that I hadn't considered doing previously," he explains. "There were more collaborative things that I wouldn't maybe have thought to do if I didn't have the facility to do it financially."

In Concert

- Caribou plays the Rickshaw on May 29.



Swim — the new album from 2008 Polaris Music Prize winner Caribou — is a deeply imaginative work built of kaleidoscopic melodies, astounding percussion and vibrant textures.

Cockburn writing his life story

PEOPLE Bruce Cockburn is writing his life story.

The memoir, to be published by HarperCollins, is due for release in April 2012.

Cockburn has made some 30 albums and is also known for his activism on issues like the environment and Third World debt.

The singer says he's been approached in the past about doing a book on his life, but always thought it was too soon to do such a project.

Bruce Cockburn

Born in Ottawa in 1945, Cockburn's songs have been covered by Jerry Garcia, the Barenaked Ladies, Jimmy Buffett, and k.d. lang.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Orwellian plan to track your music

SoundCheck
Alan Cross
metronews.ca/soundcheck

Anyone who has travelled to or through the U.S. knows that customs procedures and requirements have become more stringent over the last decade.

If the Recording Industry Association of America and the Motion Picture Association of America have their way, it could get a lot more complicated for music fans.

The Office of International Intellectual Property Enforcement (IPE) is the branch of the U.S. State Department that enforces interests of holders of American copyrights. This includes counterfeit and pirated material of all sorts, both physical and virtual. That also means music and video files.

The RIAA and the MPAA recently submitted a coordinated strategic plan to the IPE — and it's insane on an Orwellian level. They call for the following:

- The installation of spyware on all computers capable of detecting and deleting material it believes infringes copyright. (They believe that once educated, consumers will install this software voluntarily.)
- Mandatory installation of software on all Internet connections to detect and stop transfers of material it deems to be infringing copyright.
- Empower U.S. customs agents to search for pirated or unauthorized material on personal media players (MP3 players and phones), laptops, USB drives or any other media with the ability to store audio and video. If they find something, then the device should be seized. (Canadian customs can do the same thing, but require a court order.)
- New copyright enforcement muscle by everyone from the FBI to the Department of Homeland Security, specifically asking them to provide protection during summer blockbuster season.
- The IPE to lean on countries around the world to adopt the same policies.

"What's scary, though, is the window this gives us into how the American entertainment industry is thinking these days."

Before we get too freaked out, it's important to remember that this is just a wishlist submitted by the RIAA and the MPAA. What's scary, though, is the window this gives us into how the American entertainment industry is thinking these days: A non-neutral Internet, less digital privacy (including the enlistment of American citizens to participate in the surveillance of themselves) and the use of federal agents to act as free bodyguards for high-profile releases.

Thankfully, this is an American issue — for now. But as with the semi-secret negotiations around the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) in which Canada is participating, we need to keep an eye on this.

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

In brief

CHARTS The following is HMV Canada's top 10 CDs based on national sales for the week ending April 24.

POP ALBUMS
1. Iron Man 2 Soundtrack — AC/DC
2. Glee: The Music — The Power of Madonna — Glee Cast
3. My World 2.0 — Justin Bieber
4. The Fame Monster — Lady Gaga
5. Nikki — Nikki Yanofsky
6. Slash — Slash
7. Need You Now — Lady Antebellum
8. Crazy Love — Michael Bublé
9. Congratulations — MGMT
10. One Love — David Guetta

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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How to make it again

How to Make It in America, starring Bryan Greenberg (right), has been renewed, HBO said on Wednesday. The series, which focuses on two guys trying to start their own clothing company, will return for Season 2 in summer 2011. TVGUIDE.COM

Television

It's television pilot season again

Turreted and stately, the house on a quiet street in Newton had been vacant for a while.

But for a few days last month, its 'For Sale' signs went away. Trucks, trailers, crews and actors converged along Lake Avenue after fliers in every neighbour's mailbox gave fair warning: This picture-perfect homestead would temporarily be occupied as one of several shooting sites around the Boston area for a CBS pilot called Quinn-Tuplets.

Quinn-Tuplets is just one of 80-plus scripted pilots in production and due to be evaluated soon by the five broadcast networks. Each is bucking for a berth on a fall prime-time schedule. But only a handful will make the cut.

Lately, a year-round program rollout has found favour in the industry. Even so, the May "upfront" presentations — heralding a new crop of fall TV to advertisers and the world — remain. This half-century-old rite perpetuates the need for pilots to sustain it. Lots of pilots. Pronto.

Shawn Ryan, with series to his credit including The Unit and The Shield, has a pilot in the works for Fox called Ride-Along.

"When you're producing an ongoing show," he said one hectic day last week, "It feels like you're in an out-of-control car hurtling 100 miles per hour and you never know whether you'll get someplace, or crash. With a pilot, you start at a standstill, and you're told you've got to be at 100 miles per hour — tomorrow!"

Almost in lockstep, the process goes like this: Come January, scripts for dramas and comedies are picked by the studios from hundreds in development. Production begins. By the end of April, each finished pilot is delivered to the network that ordered it. Then, in mid-May, the networks unveil their fall lineups, with a lucky few new shows part of the mix — all whipped together in the frantic fortnight that went before.

"There's absolutely no rest until the May upfronts and then the reward, should you succeed, is to be told, 'OK, you're going to be filming the series in two months. Go to it!"
Producer Shawn Ryan

GETTY IMAGES

Becki Newton is acting in a pilot for a potential new series Love Bites.

For Cindy Chupack, the script development phase of her NBC project, Love Bites, took place two years ago. Then NBC opted not to go the next step to a pilot. Much to her surprise early this year, Chupack learned Love Bites had sprung back to life: The network's current bosses wanted a pilot.

"We're going from words on paper that only a few executives saw and decided not to make before, to now," said Chupack in a recent interview from Los Angeles, sounding jazzed as she faced the 14th and final shooting day. "It's really nice to employ a lot of people and have them making this thing that's been on paper for a long time."

On the other hand, Love Bites will be fighting for a place at the table against established series NBC may stick with, plus a dozen-and-a-half other pilots. These include the high-profile Rockford Files remake and a legal drama starring Jimmy Smits, whose executive producer is NBC's ex-communicated talk-show host, Conan O'Brien.

"I'm kind of Zen about it," said Chupack when asked about her nail-biting plans when she is waiting for the verdict. "There are so many factors I have no control over."

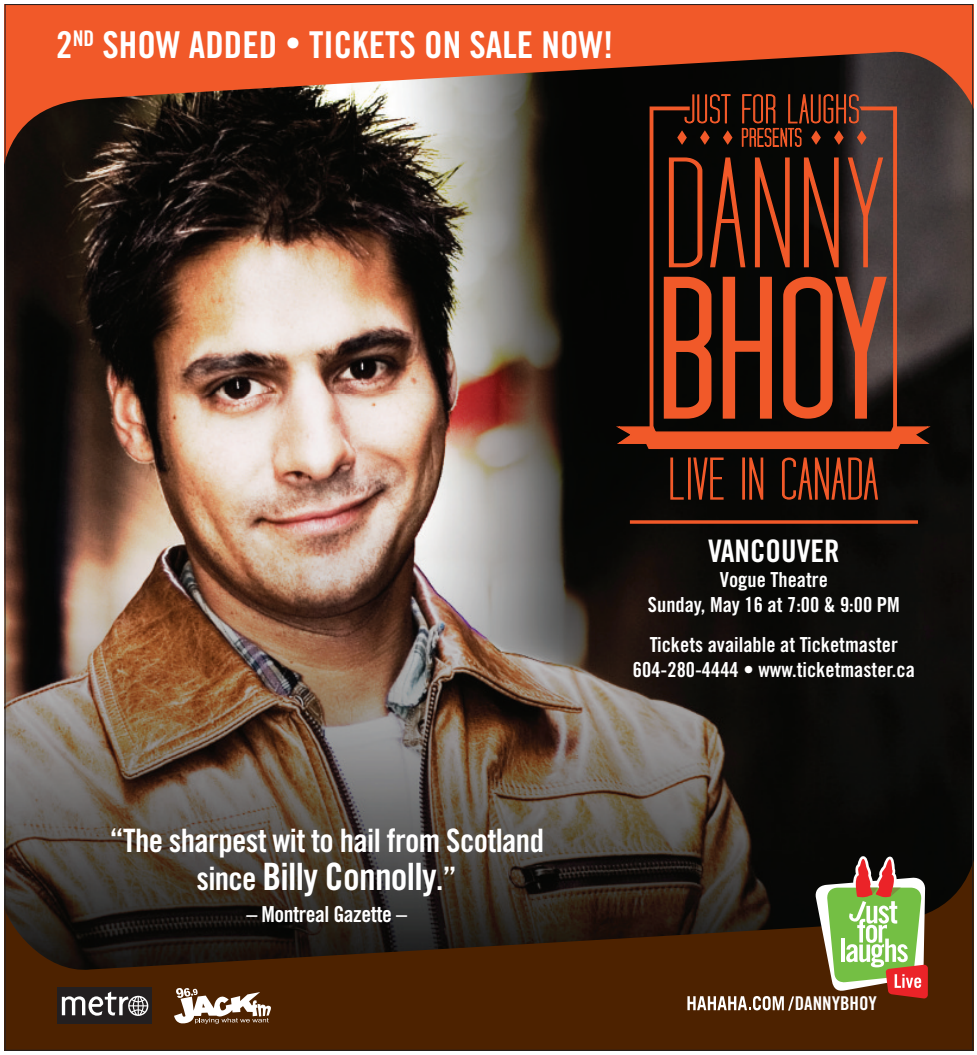
She expects to hear the news — good or bad — as late as Sunday, May 16. If her show's among the chosen few, she'll jump on a plane to be in New York at NBC's presentation for ad-buyers Monday morning.

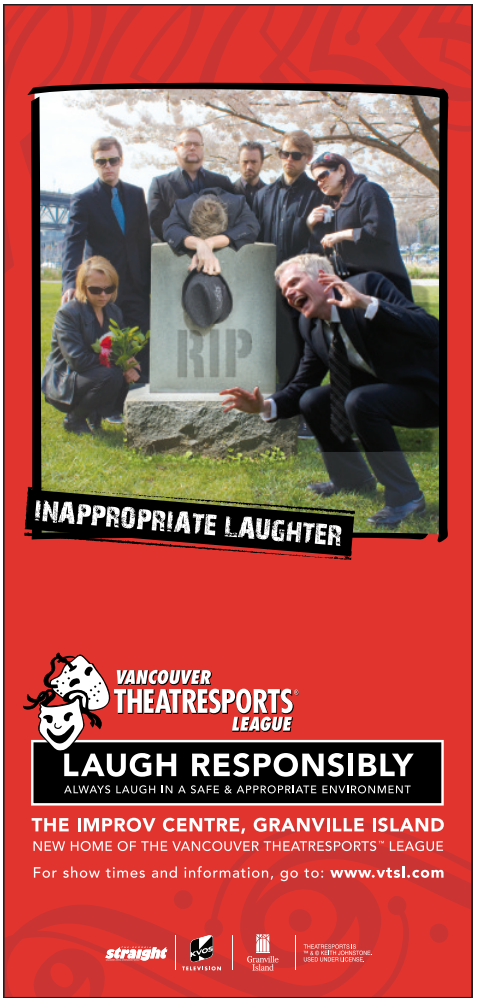
Shawn Ryan isn't counting on a phone call any earlier from Fox about the fate of Ride-Along, a Chicago-based police drama.

"There's absolutely no rest until the May upfronts," Ryan said. "And then the reward, should you succeed, is to be told, 'OK, you're going to be filming the series in two months. Go to it!'"

Then comes the biggest hurdle yet for the new shows that have made it to the air: Will anybody watch?

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





Oh captain, our captain

"It's time for Canada to boldly go where no country has gone before."

That phrase leads off a Facebook page calling for Canadian-born actor William Shatner to be named Canada's next Governor General.

About 10,700 people have signed on to the page suggesting Capt. Kirk beam into Rideau Hall once Michaëlle Jean beams out.

Jean's five-year mission will soon expire and Prime Minister Stephen Harper is considering who will replace her.

The Facebook page asks fans to imagine Shatner reading the throne speech in that Capt. Kirk style "we have come to know and love."

The Montreal-born Shatner recently sang Canada's praises during the closing ceremonies of the Vancouver Olympics.

Wheelchair athlete Rick Hansen was recently mentioned as a possible candidate to replace Jean, but a spokeswoman for the Man in Motion said Hansen has not been offered the job.

Other possibilities include John de Chastelain, a former chief of defence staff and Canadian ambassador to the United States, Inuit leader Mary Simon and Reform Party founder Preston Manning.

A Facebook page set up in March to promote Manning for the vice-regal position has less than 500 fans.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FRIDAY 4/23/10

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	NHL Hockey Los Angeles Kings at Vancouver Canucks. (Subject to Blackout) (Live) (CC)						CBC News: The National		The Hour
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Access H.	Ghost Whisperer (CC)		Medium (CC)		The Bridge "Painted Ladies"		CTV News
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	X-Weighted "Rebekah"		Shark Tank (CC)		Brothers & Sisters (N) (CC)		News
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi	TMZ (N)	Wife Swap (N) (CC)		Jamie Oliver's Food		Miami Medical (N) (CC)		A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Murdoch Mysteries		Who Do You Think You Are?		Murdoch Mysteries (N)		Warehouse 13 "Pilot" (CC)		EP Daily
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	Smallville "Charade" (N)		America's Next Top Model		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Ghost Whisperer (CC)		Medium (CC)		Miami Medical (N) (CC)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Who Do You Think You Are?		Dateline NBC A man's double life is exposed. (N) (CC)				KING 5 News
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel	Jeopardy! (N)	Wife Swap (N) (CC)		Jamie Oliver's Food		20/20 (N) (CC)		News
	290	382	23 FOX	Two Men	Two Men	House "Black Hole" (CC)		Kitchen Nightmares (N) (PA)		News	Most Wanted	Family Guy
news	502	390	23 NW	CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		Doc Zone Future of food.		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live (CC)		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
family sports	407	419	22 RSP	Sportsnet	MLB Baseball New York Yankees at Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.					Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	NHL Hockey Detroit Red Wings at Phoenix Coyotes. (Subject to Blackout)					SportsCentre	30 for 30		SportsCentre
	552	543	25 YTV	What a Girl Wants ★ (2003) Amanda Bynes. (CC)				Things I Hate	Survive This	To Be Indie	Family Biz	Prank Patrol
	555	545	50 TEL	Batman	Wolverine	Justice	Star Wars	Futurama	King of Hill	Planet of the Apes ★★ (2001) Tim Roth		
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Continuous Journey (CC)		Poirot "The Third-Floor Flat"		Dalziel and Pascoe (CC)		Waban-Aki: People From Where the Sun		
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	CMT's Greatest		Funniest Home Videos		Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Jim
	615	520	31 A&E	Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal Minds (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal
	521	560	34 TLC	Four Weddings (N) (CC)		Say Yes	Say Yes	Four Weddings (CC)		Say Yes	Say Yes	Say Yes
	616	522	39 SHO	Relic Hunter (CC)		Termination Point (2007, Suspense) Jason Priestley. (CC)				Kenny vs.	Pure Pwnage	Misfits (CC)
	294	650	47 TBS	(6:00) Legally Blonde ★★		(:10) Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde ★★ (2003)				(:10) Yours, Mine & Ours ★★ (2005)		
	603	561	69 FN	Diners, Drive	Diners	Ramsay's Kitchen		Diners	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Diners, Drive
	-	-	66 AMC	(:04) Breaking Bad "I.F.T."		(:06) Breaking Bad (CC)		(:08) Breaking Bad "Mas"		(:10) The Amityville Horror ★★ (1979) (CC)		
	320	621	60 CEN	Everything's Gone Green		Terminator Salvation ★★ (2009) Christian Bale. Premiere.				Past Lies (2008) Nicole Eggert. (CC)		
	581	566	101 MTV	16 and Pregnant "Kailyn"		1 girl 5 gays	MTV Live	After Show	Bitch Is Back	MTV Live	Movie Night	After

SATURDAY 4/24/10

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	To Be Announced						News	Movie (CC)	
	250	321	9 CTV	W5 (Season Finale) (N)		Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame			etalk	Spectacle: Elvis		CTV News
	252	336	11 GTV	16:9-Picture	Gunless	Maternal Obsession (2008, Suspense) Nicholle Tom. (CC)				Love-Death	G-Spot (CC)	News Final
	256	389	12 VI	New Canoe	Island Week	The 2010 JUNO Awards Billy Talent, Blue Rodeo, Drake.				Stargate Atlantis "The Ark"		Bravo!FACT
	253	359	13 CITY	cooking	Amazing	Glenn Martin	Out There	All Hat (2007) Keith Carradine, Luke Kirby. (CC) (DVS)				Crusoe
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	Mona Lisa Smile ★★ (2003) Julia Roberts, Kirsten Dunst.				CSI: NY "The Fall" (CC)		CSI: Miami
	289	381	15 CBS	Paid Program	Paid Program	CSI: NY "The Triangle"		48 Hours Mystery (CC)		48 Hours Mystery (N) (CC)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Backroads	Inside Edition	The Biggest Loser (CC)		Law & Order "Innocence"		Law & Order: SVU		KING 5 News
	288	380	21 ABC	Fortune	Jeopardy!	Norbit ★ (2007) Eddie Murphy, Thandie Newton. Premiere.				Castle "Suicide Squeeze"		News
	290	382	23 FOX	Two Men	Two Men	Cops (N) (PA)	Cops (CC)	America's Most Wanted		News	Most Wanted	Wanda Sykes
news	502	390	23 NW	Conspiracy Files: Bin Laden		National	Issue	National	Mansbridge	Conspiracy Files: Bin Laden		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Newsroom		Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom		Newsroom
family sports	407	419	22 RSP	English Premier League Soccer Teams TBA. (Taped)				The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Poker
	400	400	30 TSN	NBA Basketball: Lakers at Thunder				SportsCentre	30 for 30			SportsCentre
	552	543	25 YTV	Zeke's Pad	Prank Patrol	Funniest Home Videos		That's-Weird	Prank Patrol	Survive This	Zixx Level	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	The Flintstones ★★ (1994) John Goodman. Premiere.				Futurama	King of Hill	Chicken	Venture Bros.	Moral Orel
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Insect Wars (CC)		Heartbeat (CC)		Midsomer Murders Barnaby and Jones search for a killer.				Waban
	575	583	20 CMT	Live at Cedar Creek		The Show	Sessions	The 45th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards (Live) (CC)				
	615	520	31 A&E	Criminal Minds (CC)		CSI: Miami (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal
	521	560	34 TLC	LA Ink "Caught in a Lie"		LA Ink "Feeling the Heat"		LA Ink (CC)		LA Ink "Caught in a Lie"		LA Ink (CC)
	616	522	39 SHO	ReGenesis (CC)		NYC: Tornado Terror (2008) Nicole de Boer. (CC)				Hitman ★★ (2007) Timothy Olyphant. (CC)		
	294	650	47 TBS	Michael ★★★ (1996) John Travolta, Andie MacDowell.				(:15) Runaway Bride ★★ (1999) Julia Roberts, Richard Gere. (CC)				
	603	561	69 FN	Top Chef Masters (N) (CC)		Hell's Kitchen (CC)		Ultimate Recipe Showdown		Chopped "Rattle & Roll"		Top Chef
	-	-	66 AMC	Stargate ★★	Hollywood Vietnam (CC)		The Outlaw Josey Wales ★★★ (1976, Western) Clint Eastwood, Chief Dan George. (CC)					
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:20) New in Town ★ (CC)		Extract ★★ (2009) Jason Bateman.			Big Fan ★★★ (2009) Patton Oswalt.			Widow on Hill
	581	566	101 MTV	MTV Live	Movie Night	After Show	1 girl 5 gays	MTV Live	Movie Night	1 girl 5 gays	After	After Show

SUNDAY 4/25/10

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	The Nature of Things (CC)		Movie (CC)				CBC News: The National		News
	250	321	9 CTV	Human Target (N) (CC)		The Amazing Race 16 (N)		Desperate Housewives (N)		Flashpoint (CC)		CTV News
	252	336	11 GTV	King of Hill	Cleveland	Simpsons	Family Guy	The Celebrity Apprentice (N) (CC)				News Final
	256	389	12 VI	Gossip Girl (N) (CC)		Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame			Old Christine	Law & Order: SVU		New Canoe
	253	359	13 CITY	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Murdoch Mysteries		Survivorman (CC) (DVS)		Crusoe
	-	-	14 CW	Boston Legal (CC)		CSI: Miami "Camp Fear"		CSI: NY (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	60 Minutes (N) (CC)		The Amazing Race 16 (N)		When Love Is Not Enough: The Lois Wilson Story (2010)				KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Dateline NBC (N) (CC)		Minute to Win It (N) (CC)		The Celebrity Apprentice (N) (CC)				KING 5 News
	288	380	21 ABC	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives (N)		(:01) Brothers & Sisters (N)		News
	290	382	23 FOX	'Til Death	Simpsons	Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy	Amer. Dad	News	Sports	House (CC)
news	502	390	23 NW	638 Ways to Kill Castro (2006)			Mansbridge	CBC News: The National		638 Ways to Kill Castro (2006)		
	500	500	33 CNN	Newsroom		State of the Union		Larry King Live		Newsroom		State/Union
family sports	407	419	22 RSP	MLB Baseball		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	(6:30) SportsCentre (CC)		Boxing Pavlik vs. Martinez & Bute vs. Miranda.				Motoring	Motorcycle	SportsCentre
	552	543	25 YTV	(6:00) Small Soldiers ★ (1998, Action) (CC)		Family Biz		Fries That?	Fries That?	Survive This	Zixx Level	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Spliced	Total Drama	Stoked	6TEEN (CC)	Futurama	King of Hill	Chicken	Futurama	Tripping-Rift
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	National Geographic		The Royal (CC)		Cracker (N) (CC)		The Whistleblowers (CC)		Beautiful
	575	583	20 CMT	Meet-Wilsons	Wilsons	Star Crossed	Star Crossed	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Funniest Home Videos		Hope & Faith
	615	520	31 A&E	Kirstie Alley	Kirstie Alley	Kirstie Alley	Kirstie Alley	Jewels	Jewels	Jewels	Jewels	Kirstie Alley
	521	560	34 TLC	Hoarding: Buried Alive (N)		Hoarding: Buried Alive		Hoarding: Buried Alive		Hoarding: Buried Alive		Hoard-Buried
	616	522	39 SHO	Pure Pwnage	Trailer Park	Behind the Wall (2008) Lindy Booth, James Thomas. (CC)				The Heartbreak Kid ★★ (2007) Ben Stiller.		
	294	650	47 TBS	Pretty	(:17) Pretty Woman ★★★ (1990) Richard Gere, Julia Roberts. (CC)					(9:50) Win a Date With Tad Hamilton! ★★		
	603	561	69 FN	Dinner: Impossible (CC)		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Hell's Kitchen (CC)		Iron Chef America (CC)		Dinner
	-	-	66 AMC	Breaking Bad "Sunset" (N)		(:02) Breaking Bad "Sunset"		(:03) Mad Men (CC)		(:02) Breaking Bad "Sunset"		Fight Club
	320	621	60 CEN	(5:45) State of Play ★★★		Duplicity ★★★ (2009) Julia Roberts, Clive Owen.				(:10) Not Quite Hollywood ★★★ (2008)		
	581	566	101 MTV	The Challenge		Challenge	1 girl 5 gays	Life, Liz	Life, Liz	The Challenge		Challenge

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PETA resurrects Bea Arthur for McDonald's attack
A new PETA ad aimed at shaming McDonald's into changing their chicken-slaughtering practices stars a familiar scowl — one belonging to Bea Arthur. Arthur died last April of cancer shortly before her 87th birthday. POPEATER.COM

Going Out

Alba's education goal

Actress working to give kids the chance to go to school

ELISABETH BRAW
Metro World News

When Jessica Alba and the world's best soccer players get together, people pay attention.

The stunning actress serves as an ambassador for 1GOAL, a unique coalition of soccer stars, celebrities like Bono and Queen Rania, and world leaders like Ban Ki Moon and Hillary Clinton. South Africa will soon host Africa's first World Cup, but as 1GOAL points out, 72 million children in Africa and elsewhere don't have a chance to attend school.

Q Were you a good student growing up?

A You'd have to ask my teachers! I talked too much. But I did love learning. Science was my favorite subject as a kid.

I still love learning. I feel like I'm a student for life.

Q Most celebrities are famous for their good looks, not for winning Nobel Prizes. Why is education important?

A I think most people in developed countries take education for granted. We have free schools, good teachers, public libraries and other tools we need to learn.

In developing countries, education can literally mean the difference between life and death.

Educated children are less likely to contract HIV, earn more as an adult and can be the first in generations of their families to live above the poverty line.

Q 1GOAL runs in conjunction with the World Cup. What's the connection?

A The 2010 World Cup will be the first hosted in Africa.

Seventy-two million children around the world don't have access to an education, 60 per cent are in Africa, and most are girls.

Players and fans can help give a voice to the millions of girls and boys out of classrooms globally.

Q What are soccer players doing to help?

A Players like Cristiano Ronaldo, Rio Ferdinand and David James are helping us get the word out about the importance of getting every child around the world into school.

Even though they are seriously focused on the upcoming games, they've given much of their time over the last year meeting with world leaders and signing up fans to the campaign.

Q You recently returned from Ghana. What do you answer young children who tell you they want to become Hollywood stars?

I say go to school first and then pursue your dreams! Anything is possible with an education.

MORGANA WINGARD/ONE/AP PHOTO

Actress Jessica Alba sits with pupils in a Ghana classroom as part of her work with 1GOAL, a charity promoting the importance of education.

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Kudrow series set for TV
Lisa Kudrow's online series, Web Therapy, can soon be seen on television. Showtime has picked up the 45-episode project and will convert the clips into a series of half-hour episodes, according to The Hollywood Reporter. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

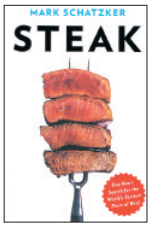
1 Volcanic ash
CULTURE Its name may look like someone slammed their fingers on the key board, but the Eyjafjallajokull volcano wasn't to be taken lightly this week. Ash from the Icelandic volcano grounded air travel, and placed the North Atlantic island-nation back in the news.

2 The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus
DVD Fans of Heath Ledger will want to drop by their local video store next week to pick up a copy of his last film. The Terry Gilliam-directed movie features an all-start cast, including Johnny Depp, Jude Law and Colin Farrell — who helped complete the film after Ledger's 2008 passing.

3 South Park
TV It looks like Trey Parker and Matt Stone still know how to push the envelope. The Associated Press reports a radical Muslim group has warned the creators of South Park that they could face violent retribution for depicting the prophet Muhammad in a bear suit during last week's episode.

4 Nightmare on Elm Street
MOVIES Freddy Krueger is back — and this time he isn't being portrayed by Robert England. In this latest re-imagining, which opens next week, the bladed glove-wearing serial killer is portrayed by Jackie Earle Haley. Is Freddy ready to scare a new generation?

5 Steak
BOOKS Travel writer and humorist Mark Schatzker grills those involved in the world of steak culture in his search for the world's tastiest piece of meat. The book is a grade-A look into the world of top sirloin and the lunatic lengths people will go to find the choicest cuts and best ways to cook a steak.



6 MAC's Prêt-à-Papier
BEAUTY This new neural colour collection, inspired by the paper patterns snipped-out by fashion designer, sews together a seamless spectrum of shadows, pencils, lipsticks and blushes in shades ranging from parchment to vellum beige. Put away your scissors, pull out your makeup brushes and get crafting.

7 Undateable
ADVICE Author's Ellen Rakieten and Anne Coyle have come up with a list of 311 things guys do that guarantee they won't get dates. So, what makes their no-no list? Jorts (that's jean shorts to the lingo-challenged), bad facial hair, Hawaiian shirts, stupid T-shirts and fur coats.

Mix of Six

Air Supply
When: Friday, 8 p.m.
Where: River Rock Show Theatre

Australian soft rock duo Air Supply will be in Vancouver promoting their latest album, Mumbo Jumbo. The group rose to fame in the '80s with songs like All Out Of Love, Young Love and Lost In Love. Tix: $69 to $85. Info: ticketmaster.ca.

Science World After Dark
When: Friday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Where: The Telus World Of Science, 1455 Quebec St.

Science World is hosting an adults-only evening featuring stand-up comics, a cash bar and the chance to explore all the exhibits. Tix: $19.75. Info: scienceworld.ca or 604-443-7500.

I Heart Planet Earth
When: Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Where: VanDusen Botanical Garden, 5251 Oak St.

VanDusen is celebrating Earth Day with family-friendly garden tours, crafts and planting activities. Advanced registration is required. Tix $15 – $20. Info: vandusengarden.org.

Celebrate Spring at Nikkei Place
When: Saturday, 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: 100–6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby

The National Nikkei Museum and Heritage Centre is hosting a family-friendly celebration featuring Japanese taiko and dance performances, a formal tea ceremony and more. Tix: Free. Info: nikkeiplace.org.

Grupo Corpo
When: Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.
Where: The Vancouver Playhouse

Vancouver's newest dance series will conclude its second season at the Vancouver Playhouse with a performance by Brazil's Grupo Corpo. Tix: $35 – $65. Info: danceouse.ca.

Portobello West Fashion & Art Market
When: Sunday, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Where: Rocky Mountaineer Station

Shop for one-of-a-kind items from independent designers, artists, jewellers and more. Tix: $2. Info: portobellowest.com.

Madonna helped launched career of plus size hip hop dancer

British plus size hip hop dancer Kymberlee Jay found fame after being hand-picked by Madonna to appear in promo videos.

Predictably, her striking appearance and unconventional dancer's physique simultaneously inspired women and sparked controversy in the industry. She is now an athlete on the Nike payroll, a TV presenter, choreographer, and of course a dancer.

She recently spoke to Metro World News about, er, waacking and krumping.

Q You seem to have so many jobs, how do you cope?

A I don't know! I have always enjoyed being busy and learning new things so I guess that's part of it. All of my activities connect somehow so it's quite easy to multi-task — like when I have my "choreographer" hat on, I can also be a Nike Athlete and Performance Coach! It can be stressful and I work a lot of hours, but I wouldn't change it for the world!

Q Are there any new underground styles emerging?

A I think the underground style which is still least understood and being still being discovered is Krump. It's a very personal and exciting style that looks like it's extremely wild but is actually very controlled. A style that is making a big come back on the underground is also waacking. This was hugely popular in the nightclubs of Los Angeles in the '70s and is fast becoming the newest trend on the scene.

Q Which are you most focused How did you end up dancing with Madonna?

A Madonna saw me in the Nike commercial called "Take sport — add music" and asked me if I would like to join her in her music video for Hung Up. This led on to an appearance in the video for Sorry which was extremely exciting... She is a huge inspiration to me and has been since I was four years old.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Hip hop dancer Kymberlee Jay.

Mandel back to the stand-up stage

Howie Mandel is now star of TV, the comedy stage ... and Twitter.

CHARLES SYKES/THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP-FILE PHOTO

TV star Howie Mandel is going back to his stand-up roots when he performs at Casino Rama on May 1. Mandel also returns to TV screens this summer as a judge for America's Got Talent.

"Yesterday I spent two hours decorating eggs," he tweeted over Easter. "It's so hard to paint when they're scrambled."

The Toronto-born comedian, who returns for a live comedy performance May 1 at Orillia's Casino Rama, says tweeting is just the thing for a comic with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

"It's only 140 characters and I'm always holding my phone so whatever happens I can just share the moment," says Mandel. He even tweeted about the recent California earthquake. "The chandelier over my urinal is still swinging," he joked.

Mandel wrote about his ADHD, along with the mysophobia (fear of germs) he confronted every time he would fist-bump a contestant on Deal or No Deal, in his New York Times bestseller Here's The Deal: Don't Touch Me.

The book originally was just going to be tales of "all the funny experiences I've been lucky enough to have," after 30 years in show business, he says over the phone from Los Angeles.

It turned out to be more of a confessional about coping with various personal disorders.

"People say writing about stuff like that is supposed to be cathartic. I just found it hard to focus for that length of time and to be that open."

He's happy, though, that others with similar afflictions have been able to take comfort from his experiences.

The 54-year-old says he is as surprised as anyone to find he has become a best-selling author. On the other hand, "everything I've done has been somewhat of a surprise," he says.

Older fans remember him from his six seasons on St. Elsewhere and fans of all ages know him as the squeaky-voice of Bobby from Bobby's World.

Mandel says hosting Deal or No Deal was "probably the most notoriety I've received for anything I've ever done."

Overused to stop the bleeding on NBC's failing primetime schedule, the series ended its run last year after four seasons (including a brief Canadian edition on Global) but a syndicated version with Mandel as host is still airing.

His latest U.S. network venture will be joining the judging panel on America's Got Talent, which returns for a fifth summer season starting June 1 at 8 p.m. on NBC.

Mandel will be joining judges Piers Morgan and Sharon Osbourne and replacing David Hasselhoff.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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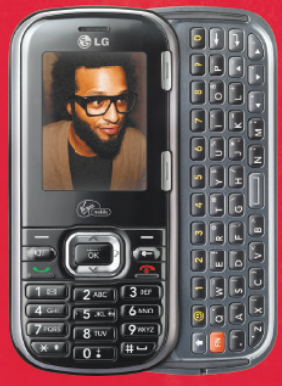

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Osmond son attempted suicide three times before death, says friend
Before tragically taking his life, Marie Osmond's son confided to a friend that he had attempted suicide three times previously, according to witness statements from the L.A. County Coroner report. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Tiger and Elin: Separate lives?

NICKELBACK CONCERT?! THIS MAN IS CRYING OUT FOR HELP Tiger Woods and wife Elin Nordegren appear to be stepping up their lives apart, people.com reports.

Monday in Orlando, Fla., the golf champ attended a Nickelback concert — where, according to TMZ, he partied backstage surrounded by a security team. Earlier that night, he and friends dined together in a restaurant, reports RadarOnline, an event described as his first public outing since the sex scandal that broke last November.

Meanwhile, Elin and the couple's two children, Sam and Charlie, took off for Sweden, despite the volcanic ash spewing into the skies from Iceland which grounded the majority of Scandinavian and European flights.

"Elin and her children have arrived in a very north area, much north of Stockholm," a source in the Swedish capital tells People. "There is one guesthouse and another house down by the sea that has a sauna. She also has a sandy beach all her own and a dock for boats." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Wife 'controlled' King says ex

THAT 'DEPENDS' ON WHAT YOU MEAN BY CONTROL The divorce battle between CNN talk-show host Larry King and his seventh wife, Shawn Southwick, may be on hold, but things are still getting messy. A former Little League coach for their two sons says he had an affair with Southwick beginning three years ago.

"We had sex in Larry's bed — a lot," Hector Penate tells In Touch. "I had sex with Shawn while Larry was on TV. Our sex life was real good." Penate says Southwick showered him with gifts, and he claims she even convinced King to co-sign the lease for his apartment.

"She controlled him," Penate says. "He just sat there and signed it." METRO WORLD NEWS

Royal engagement to be announced at any moment

SAYS 'AUTHORITATIVE' REPORT NO. 23,547 Royal families watchers are more certain than ever that a wedding announcement is forthcoming from Prince William and Kate Middleton, according to People magazine. The pair was recently spotted sharing a cozy lunch at a French Alps ski resort with Middleton's parents, who clearly already consider William family, sources say. "William was clearly very close to Kate's father, and every time he spoke to him, William replied, 'Yes, Dad,'" a source says.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Britney shoots for the stars

AND MISSES Britney Spears is seeking guidance from an astrologer, female-first.co.uk reports.

The singer — whose relationship with agent Jason Trawick is reportedly in trouble — has approached British TV stargazer Russell Grant and asked for a reading to find out what her future holds.

Grant, 59, confirmed: "I got an email from Britney Spears' office. Apparently she wants a reading. I need to check out its validity."

This is not the first time 28-year-old Spears — who has sons Sean Preston, four, and three-year-old Jayden James with ex-husband Kevin Federline ' has turned to Grant for advice. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Paris disses ex-boyfriend

TO BE READ IN HER CHARACTERISTICALLY ARROGANT, VACUOUS, VALLEY GIRL ACCENT FOR FULL EFFECT Paris Hilton has definitely moved on from Doug Reinhardt, us-magazine.com reports.

"I am like so past that — I don't even care," Hilton, 29, told us-magazine.com at Wednesday's Project A.L.S. fundraiser at Lucky Strike Lanes in Hollywood.

A week ago, Hilton's rep confirmed that the star had dumped 25-year-old Reinhardt "more than two weeks ago." Hilton and the Hills star began dating last year but took a break in June.

"I don't even remember that time in my life," Hilton quipped of their just-ended romance. "I am over it! I just realized that I'm better off without him," she explained. "So I ended it because I deserve something much better." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sources: Brangelina kin push for 'I dos'

SOURCES WHO ALSO HAPPEN TO BE FORMER CREATIVE WRITING MAJORS AT THIRD RATE SCHOOLS Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are finally ready to exchange vows, according to OK! Magazine. And it's all because of their kids.

Sources say their children have been teaming up against them in their campaign for a wedding. "First it was Maddox, who has begged his parents to tie the knot for years," a source says. "Lately, Shiloh and Zahara have been chiming in, and Pax thinks it would just be the coolest thing ever to be a ring bearer."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Locklear arrested for alleged hit and run

JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED FOR INNOCENT PARKING SIGNS EVERYWHERE! Heather Locklear was arrested in Los Angeles for allegedly committing a hit and run and then fleeing the scene, according to TMZ. Luckily, her vehicle hit a "no parking" sign and not a person. As the collision happened late at night and wasn't reported until the next day, sources say it's unlikely the Melrose Place star will be charged, as there is "nothing approaching proof beyond a reasonable doubt" that Locklear was driving the car.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Montag drops lawsuit against Hills producer

ONCE SHE REALIZED NO ONE BELIEVED ANYONE WOULD TOUCH HER VOLUNTARILY Heidi Montag has decided to drop a planned sexual harassment lawsuit against The Hills creator Adam DeVillo, according to Page Six. Montag had accused him of groping her during a photo shoot earlier this year. "Heidi and Spencer (Pratt) have changed their minds and realized they should just move on," a source says.

METRO WORLD NEWS

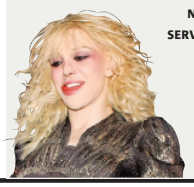
Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

COURTNEY LOVE is trying to clear up rumours about her love life, **MATTHEW PERRY** isn't shopping for antiques, and **LINDSAY LOHAN** is engaged in her favourite pastime of feeling sorry for herself.

@CourtneyLoveUK im not dating ANYONE i IMPLORE you to let it go! BEGGING!
@langfordperry You know what I don't like? Old world charm.
@lindsaylohan this industry is all about BUILD YOU UP to TAKE YOU DOWN, it's terrible but it comes w/the territory*i just ignore it coz im numb to the negativity at this point.... life is to be appreciated, and it goes by so fast... i'm a tough cookie so i'm not going anywhere.. all ya'll are #STUCK with me LOL sorry

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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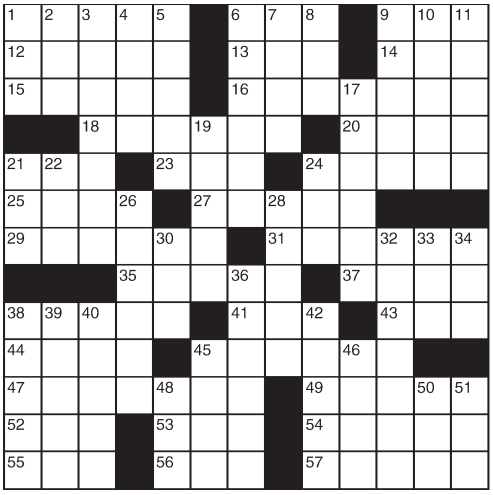
Take Five



ACROSS

1 Bakery lure
6 — Beta Kappa
9 Resort
12 Cheek-related
13 Cartoonist Chast
14 Charged bit
15 Stew seasoning
16 Mount —
18 Spoil severely
20 Prior nights
21 Litter member
23 Foreman foe
24 Each
25 Don of radio
27 Saunter
29 Cellist Pablo
31 African herd
35 Small plateaus
37 Brownish songbird
38 Liquor holder
41 Comic DeLuise
43 Mainlander's souvenir
44 Additionally
45 Two-part tile
47 Mount —
49 On the clock
52 Remnant
53 Sandra or Ruby
54 Cheer up
55 Buck's mate
56 Eccentric
57 Aired again

DOWN

1 Qty.
2 "Go, team!"
3 Mount —
4 One of the Three Bears
5 Where the action is
6 Bout before the main event
7 Threw
8 Noun-to-verb suffix
9 Strainer
10 Riddle
11 Nervous
17 Disclose
19 Tumbler
21 Snapshot
22 Actress Thurman
24 Wapiti
26 Biblical strongman
28 Center of emotions
30 Albanian money
32 Mount —
33 Rage
34 Tackle moguls
36 Put on a pedestal
38 Got along
39 Grassy southwestern plain
40 Remark to the audience
42 Papal hat
45 Act
46 Cleo's river
48 Altar affirmative
50 Greek H
51 Hideaway

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	3		1			6	7	
5				2		3		9
6				5				
	6	9			5		4	
				3				
	2		6			7	5	
				1				4
1		5		9				7
	8	3			4		2	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

R	E	N	D		F	I	B	
U	S	E	R		U	K	E	
I	S	L	E		N	E	E	
N	E	L	S	O	N		F	R
			S	K	Y			E
A	C	H	Y		C	O	M	P
R	H	O			A	B	O	
M	A	N	D	A	R	I	N	
		E	E	L			E	W
S	C	Y	L	L	A		Y	E
C	U	B	A		L	A	P	
O	B	E	Y		S	K	I	
T	E	E	S		O	A	T	

A	S	I	F		A	S	I	F
R	U	B	E		R	U	B	E
E	N	I	D		E	N	I	D
F	R	O	N	D	S			
E	L	Y						
C	O	M	P	A	D	R	E	
A	B	O			A	U	K	
D	Y	N	E					
E	W	E						
Y	E	L	P	E	D			
A	R	I	A					
N	O	R	M					
O	D	E	S					

4	2	9	7	6	1	8	5	3
8	1	5	9	3	2	7	4	6
3	6	7	4	5	8	2	1	9
5	8	1	6	4	9	3	7	2
6	9	4	3	2	7	1	8	5
7	3	2	8	1	5	9	6	4
2	5	8	1	9	6	4	3	7
1	4	6	2	7	3	5	9	8
9	7	3	5	8	4	6	2	1

On the web

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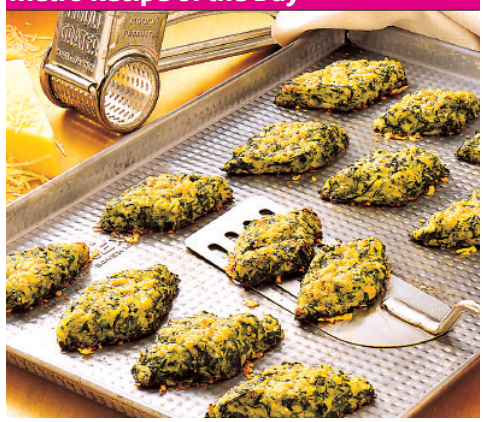
Metro Recipe of the Day



Baked Spinach Gnocchi

INGREDIENTS:

300-g package frozen chopped spinach
1/4 cup finely chopped yellow onion
2 cups 1% milk
1/2 cup semolina
1 tsp dried basil
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 tbsp butter
2 large eggs, lightly beaten
2/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese

METHOD:

1. Cook spinach and onion according to directions on spinach package; drain well, pressing out excess liquid with paper towels.

2. Meanwhile, in medium-size mixing bowl, stir together 3/4 cup milk, semolina, basil and garlic. In medium-size pot, bring remaining 1 1/4 cups milk and butter to boil over moderately high heat. Slowly add semolina mixture to boiling milk, stirring constantly. Cook, uncovered, 3 to 5 minutes or until very thick.

3. Remove from heat. Stir about 1 cup of mixture into eggs; return mixture to pot. Stir in spinach mixture and 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese. Pour into lightly greased 8" x 8" x 2" baking dish. Cover; refrigerate 4 hours

4. Preheat oven to 425°F (220°C). Turn chilled mixture out onto cutting board. Cut into diamond-shaped pieces. Sprinkle with remaining Parmesan cheese. Place on lightly greased baking sheet. Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until golden.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

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ARIES ♈
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A money-making scheme may look good but don't be tempted. There is only one way your financial position will improve and that is through hard work.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Life is not a zero sum game: other people don't have to lose so that you can win. Keep that thought in mind today. Why not co-operate instead?

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Don't worry that partners and loved ones won't understand your need to spend some time by yourself. What matters is that you unwind mentally.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You are advised not to make any major plans today or over the weekend. Trust that the powers that shape your life will guide you in the right direction.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
An authority figure will either stop you doing what you want to do or make you do what you don't want to do. It might be a pain but don't get annoyed.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
This is a fortunate time of year for you and although you might not quite believe that yet you will start to believe it over the next few days.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Someone you work alongside is watching you closely, hoping that you will slip up so they can point out your mistake and look good at your expense.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Why can't you take what others tell you at face value? Is it because your instincts warn they are being less than truthful?

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You may have no intention of backing down in some kind of dispute, but neither does your opponent and the most likely outcome is a stalemate.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You may want to get on in the world but today it might be wise to keep a low profile. The less that potential rivals know the better,

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
There is no such thing as a free lunch and anyone who tells you a different story is not to be trusted. There's more than just money at stake.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You will be reminded today of something you said a long time ago and chances are you won't feel too happy about it. Don't try to defend the indefensible.

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